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20P

THE TIMES

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Network 'will be envy of world'

Rail sell-off receipts may be halved

By Ross Tieman and Philip Webster

THE Government has been forced to abandon its financial targets for rail privatisation after warnings that they threatened to wreck the sale.

But John Major yesterday declared the Government's determination to press ahead swiftly with the sale and make British railways "the envy of the world."

It emerged last night that Treasury demands that Railtrack achieve an 8 per cent profit on the track and signalling equipment it owns have been swept aside after pressure from Bob Horion, its chairman, and calculations by John Swift, the rail regulator.

This means Government receipts from the sale of Railtrack may be halved to £2 billion. But ministers hope that by cutting the rate of return to inflation plus 2 or 3 per cent, they may be able to rescue privatisation plans which had threatened to collapse because of excessive charges for use of the tracks. The Treasury stipulates the rate of return because this will provide the privatised company with subsidies to keep open unprofitable lines.

The U-turn will be announced this week when Mr Swift publishes his proposals on track access charges for the 25 train operating companies that will be franchised to use the network.

As doubts continued to emerge over Labour's rail plans Mr Major said at a Downing Street press conference that he was not satisfied with the service provided by the British Rail for the past 40 years and that he wanted to

Monarchy 'will survive squalls'

Mr Major defended the Royal Family fiercely, declaring that it would recover from the squalls that have hit it recently. It was, he said, the "central glue" in the constitution of the United Kingdom, and he did not see that changing.

In his first remarks on the monarchy since the announced divorce of the Camilla and Andrew Parker Bowles, he said people expected high standards from those in public life, including royalty.

"From time to time," he said, "there are squalls which for a short time cause some difficulty. That is what they are — short-term squalls. The underlying respect, admiration and affection for the constitution of the monarchy itself will be untouched by this. I believe it will continue to endure, and it is immensely important that it does."

remove them for good "from the comedian's joke book."

He described Tony Blair's pledge to maintain the railways in public ownership as "dangerous to the unions for the support he needed from them to rewrite Clause 4."

But he predicted that the privatisation of British Rail would eventually prove as successful as British Airways, British Telecom, British Steel and the electricity industry, and that the public would be keen to invest.

Mr Major's remarks came amid signs that the Govern-

ment is to take an aggressive approach to the sale of Railtrack and the franchising of services. The franchises may be extended to 10 years, rather than seven as at first envisaged, and the second instalment of franchises is expected to be bigger than expected.

By revising down the value of Railtrack's assets and accepting a return comparable to other utilities the Government will sharply reduce the subsidy it would pay operators to help them break even.

City analysts had estimated that the privatisation proposals would cause subsidies to the railway to rise from £930 million in the year to March 1994 to £1.6 billion, if the initial target of a 5.1 per cent rate of return was to be achieved. Cost-cutting efficiency improvements were supposed to lift the rate of return to 8 per cent by 1998.

By writing down the assets and cutting the required rate of return to market levels, the Government will hope to stimulate interest. Until now, only management buyout teams have shown serious interest.

At the same time, ministers hope they may achieve their ambition of selling Railtrack before the next election. Mr Horion believes the company, which is at the heart of the rail privatisation, can be prepared for sale by March 1995.

Mr Major had used his press conference to go on the attack against Labour and announce that the build-up to the general election was already under way.

Speaking in the oak-paneled state dining room at Number 10, he told his party to beware of complacency and that no one should expect a bouncy economy alone to be enough for victory.



John Major outlines his political plans beneath a portrait of George II at No 10

elled state dining room at Number 10, he told his party to beware of complacency and that no one should expect a bouncy economy alone to be enough for victory.

He confirmed that he had asked ministers to begin a policy review that will form the basis of a manifesto, but which also would have a much longer perspective. In a

confident performance the Prime Minister spoke optimistically about the Government's ability to pull back Labour's poll lead.

"I know that doing uncomfortable things, although often necessary in government, does not always endear you to people. But if your policy is right and if you stick to it the benefits do come through. It is

a recovery for the long term. It is not a flash in the pan. It is not fuelled by Monopoly money," Mr Major added. "In around two years, maybe a little more, perhaps a little less, we are going to have to persuade the public once again to entrust us with government."

Politics, page 10

US lukewarm over Yeltsin invitation to spring summit

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA yesterday invited President Clinton to a summit in Moscow in the spring, signalling its wish to repair the damage done to its relations with the West by its war against Chechnya. The White House, increasingly dismayed by the savagery of the Russian campaign, declined to say if Mr Clinton would accept.

In a surprise move, Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, is expected to present the invitation when he meets Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in Geneva today. A Russian official quoted by Tass said: "We have plans for a summit meeting in May. There is an invitation and it is the intention of President Clinton to come to Moscow at that time."

But Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, told journalists merely that "there will likely be a conversation" in Geneva about a possible meeting. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, was meeting Mr Christopher in Washington last night, and Chechnya was at the head of their agenda.

Although the Kremlin said yesterday that President Yeltsin was cancelling his attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, at the end of this month, it appears to have decided that, by the time of the proposed summit meeting in Moscow, its forces should have secured a victory in Chechnya and that the international outcry will have subsided.

Heavy fighting continued in and around Grozny, the Chechen capital, yesterday, but there were also signs that the Russian authorities are laying the foundations for a peaceful settlement. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, last night

called for peace talks and an immediate ceasefire to end the five-week conflict, which has claimed thousands of casualties on both sides.

"The start of talks would mean a ceasefire at the same time," he said. Mr Chernomyrdin is a moderate who is emerging as the leader of a dove-ish faction in a Government that is dominated by hardliners.

Mr Christopher also intends to use today's meeting with Mr Kozyrev in Geneva to pursue a new American plan for surmounting Russia's strong opposition to Nato's eastward expansion. He is expected to propose that negotiations be started to explore how Russia might form an affiliation with Nato that falls

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short of full membership but makes clear that Russia is not being excluded from the alliance.

Mr Yeltsin said angrily last month that allowing such former Warsaw Pact nations as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join Nato would "sow seeds of mistrust" and plunge Europe into a new "Cold Peace".

One idea Mr Christopher will propose, it is suggested, is that Russia and Nato's 16 full members should form a standing commission to discuss security issues without giving Moscow a direct say in Nato's decisions. Another proposal is that Russia and Nato should draw up a charter setting out their relationship in precise detail. Neither arrangement would exclude the possibility, however remote, of Russia eventually becoming a full member of the alliance.

City taskforce launched to control directors' pay

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE chairman of Marks & Spencer, Sir Richard Greenbury, who is paid £779,188 a year, is to lead a City taskforce to regulate executive salaries and payouts after a series of disputes over senior industrialists' pay.

The taskforce is expected to draw up a code of practice within about six months, which will be backed by the Confederation of British Industry, the Stock Exchange, the Association of British Insurers and the Institute of Directors.

Other senior industrialists in the group will include Sir Michael Angus, the Whitbread chairman, who is paid

£154,170, David Simon, the chief executive of BP (£615,000) and Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman of ICI (£257,000).

The Government welcomed the move, announced by the CBI yesterday, which follows a public outcry over a number of high pay increases, including a 75 per cent rise for Cedric Brown, the chief executive of British Gas.

Sir Richard said: "There is clearly a job to be done here, and I am confident that we can propose some practical ways forward which will attract wide support."

The CBI acknowledged that public confidence has been damaged over the way in which the pay of company directors is set. Sir Bryan Nicholson, the unpaid CBI chairman, said that business needed to rebuild that confidence. "The prime responsibility must rest with boards and shareholders," he said. "But they need to discharge that responsibility in a clear and defensible manner."

The group will include representatives from the Stock Exchange, insurance companies, pension funds and the Institute of Directors. The IoD's executive committee is today expected to approve its own executive pay proposals.

The CBI does not believe it can say precisely how much individual companies ought to pay directors. The code is, however, likely to suggest that firms should ensure that pay levels are set by independent directors; that firms make their policy public; that they avoid contracts which make payments for failure; and establish a clear relationship between the pay and perfor-

mance of directors. The group will consider the composition of the remuneration committees that set pay levels, and look at share options, bonus schemes and the length of contracts. It will also consider the best ways of disclosing pay decisions.

Ministers welcomed the move, although Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, insisted that the Conservatives had always said that controlling people's pay was not a matter for the Government.

"If British industry wants to come up with standards and guidelines of its own, then that is welcome," he said.

Gordon Brown, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, said that while the new group was welcome, "it is not enough unless backed up by government action. The Government is trying to run away from its own responsibility in relation to the privatised gas, water and electricity industries."

Pay disputes, page 2
Graham Scarycant, page 16



Sir Richard: aiming to draw up practical code

Boys' £50,000 secret in canalside den

CHILDREN building a secret den have stumbled on stolen jewels worth £50,000 (Bill Frost writes). Damian, 11, and Daniel Eccles, 13, of Sandish, near Wigan, and David Jones, 16, of Haske, near Ormskirk, saw coins tumble from the earth as they dug on the banks of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Danson Wood, Halsall, Lancashire, and found four boxes covered in plastic.

Daniel said: "When we saw all the silver and jewels inside, we thought we were rich. We went to a house nearby and phoned the police from there."

Detective Constable Chris Harris, of Ormskirk police, said the jewellery, with antique watches, coins, and stamps, had been stolen about 20 years ago.

Detectives refused to give the name of a man whose passport was recovered from the site.

Faye Dunaway's secret payout

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber agreed to pay Faye Dunaway, 53, "substantial" compensation for dropping her from the US production of *Sunset Boulevard*. The out of court settlement follows a dispute last summer when the actress sought £4 million damages. Page 4

EC veto crisis

Jacques Santer, the EC President-designate, called future colleagues to an emergency meeting to decide whether to offer concessions to avoid a veto of the new European Commission. Page 13

Animal rights protesters turn back sheep lorry

By Michael Horsnell

A LORRY taking 600 sheep to the docks at Brightlingsea, Essex, was turned back last night after a crowd of over 1,000 animal rights protesters overwhelmed it.

Missiles were thrown as more than 100 police tried to control the demonstrators. Police ordered it to back nearly half a mile down a narrow street. Arrangements had been made to care for the sheep overnight outside the town.

It was understood that attempts to bring in other lorries from muster points in Kent and Huntingdon, carrying a total of 2,000 live animals for shipment to Belgium, would be abandoned.

A spokesman for Brightlingsea Against Live Exports, which organised the demonstration, said: "This is a victory for common sense. The lorry should never have been allowed here anyway. The trade is besmirching this town and we do not want that."

Unlike calves, sheep are not reared in different areas than in Britain but animal welfare campaigners say they should not be exported live because they suffer stress during transport. They want all meat exported "on the hook" and not "on the hoof".

During the day-long demonstration police arrested six people as they waited for the sheep which were to sail at midnight to Nieuwpoort, near Ostend on *Caroline*, a Danish transporter.

Some of the protesters were arrested when a sheep exporter tried to force his way

through the cordon. Richard Odley, a Northamptonshire farmer, was trapped in his Range Rover for 20 minutes.

Mr Odley, who had an incendiary device planted at his farm last weekend, said: "We would have liked to be on the short seaway. But animal welfare groups have pushed us away and we want to exercise our right to carry out a perfectly legal trade."

An inspector from the Agriculture Ministry examined the vessel. Sheep pens had been installed in the hold and supplies of feed and straw were brought on board through lines of shouting demonstrators.

Richard Lymbery, campaigns director for Compassion in World Farming said: "We have joined with local people to send a resounding message to the port authorities to condemn the trade, to the live exporters to halt it, and to the Government to act urgently to bring about an end to it throughout the European Union."

Tomorrow it is understood that an attempt will be made to export live veal calves through Brightlingsea. A number of elderly people, some clutching hot water bottles in the biting cold, were among the ranks of local people demonstrating against the trade.

They were joined by students, numerous animal rights groups, the RSPCA and veterans of the earlier protests in Shoreham, Sussex.

Cruelty case, page 4

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Lieutenant claims he was stripped, strapped to cannon and had beer poured over him

Officer sues Army for bullying that 'ruined his life'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG second lieutenant was subjected to "humiliating, violent and inexcusable bullying" by fellow officers in the Royal Horse Artillery, the High Court was told yesterday. On one occasion, 19-year-old Alastair Green was strapped naked over a ceremonial cannon, had "beer and worse" poured over him and was left with a rose between his buttocks, said his counsel, Sydney Kentridge QC.

In another incident, he was stripped naked in the mess bar by officers "laughing and jeering at the size of my willy". Mr Green said: "I felt they were doing this because I was so much younger and inexperienced and I realised I had a lot of work to do to come up to the grade of these excellent officers."

On another occasion, Capt Jonathan Murphy entered his room wearing only briefs, pulled back his bed covers and jumped astride him. "He seemed to be sexually excited. He was sniggering under his breath. He never said anything, but had a look of lust on his face." He wrestled the officer off and ran naked from his room. After borrowing a dressing gown, he reported the incident to the adjutant, who simply said: "That

sounds most unlike Jonathan." Mr Kentridge told Mr Justice Popplewell that the ordeal suffered by Mr Green in these and other incidents at Aldershot barracks in Hampshire 10 years ago led to psychiatric breakdowns which altered, and in some respects ruined, his life.

Mr Green, now 29 and teaching English in Japan where he lives with his Japanese wife and nine-month-old son, is suing the Ministry of Defence and 10 named officers

"I was so much younger. I realised I had a lot of work to do to come up to the grade of these excellent officers"

for damages for psychological injuries and loss of career prospects.

The officers named by Mr Green in his claim are: Lt Simon Clegg; Capt Christopher Lang (now dead); Major William Moore; Major Nigel Bedford; Capt Nicholas Syrett; Lt Marcus Packenham (who has not been served with the proceedings and is not represented); Major John Murphy; Capt Marcus Bennion; Major John Buchanan and Major Jonathan Hull, who was the

regiment's medical officer. Most of the officers held less senior ranks at the time of the alleged incidents.

In a hearing expected to last three weeks, the MoD denies that it failed to maintain adequate discipline and the individual defendants deny involvement in any of the alleged incidents.

Mr Kentridge said some of the officers were suggesting that what happened during Mr Green's four months' service was "merely horseplay" and that he took the incidents in good part. "But we submit that, by whatever name they choose to call it, it was unlawful, excessive and was the cause of, or the trigger for, his subsequent psychosis."

Mr Green joined the elite 7th Regiment of the Royal Horse Artillery on a short service limited commission in March 1985 after a rigorous selection process including a strenuous three-week officer training course at Sandhurst requiring enormous fitness and application, he said.

He and other newcomers who lived at the Aldershot officers' residential mess wore black berets and were known as "crap hats" by officers who had completed their para training and wore the red beret. Mr Green was the youngest officer by about five years. The son of an RAF wing commander, he was delighted to be posted to the RHA, a



Alastair Green: incidents at barracks led to breakdowns that "altered, and in some respects ruined, his life"

special forces regiment and part of the airborne division in which soldiers wore the covered red beret. But the ordeal he suffered forced him out of the Army with a breakdown after only four months, and subsequent breakdowns, including attempted suicide, over the

years dashed his ambition to become a veterinary surgeon. Mr Kentridge said there was evidence that Mr Green may have had a genetic predisposition to psychotic depression. Although his father, now retired from the RAF, had suffered no such illness, his

brother — Mr Green's uncle — had done so at one stage. Mr Kentridge said Mr Green would have to take drugs for the rest of his life and the court must decide whether the bullying caused the onset of his illness. Mr Green, who married his Japanese wife in July 1993, said he now earned £1,750 "in a good month" teaching English, but in Japan it was not enough to support the family. My state of mind is a constant battle within myself not to crack up." The hearing continues today.

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Barrister faces jail for fees fiddle of £10,000

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A BARRISTER who sat as a High Court judge in Kenya and as an immigration appeals adjudicator in Britain faces a possible jail sentence for fiddling about £10,000 in fees for his appeals work.

Ernest Aragon, 68, whose character was defended by one of the country's senior judges, was convicted yesterday by Southwark Crown Court on four counts of obtaining property by deception between July 1992 and December 1993. The maximum penalty for the charge is ten years' imprisonment. He will be sentenced on February 17.

Aragon, of New Malden, Surrey, said outside the court that he would consider an appeal. He had claimed fees for more than 600 "virtual" immigration appeals cases while the work, which he did part-time, remained untouched at home.

In his defence, Aragon's lawyers called Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, who praised his good work and said she was shocked when she heard of the allegations.

Aragon, who was employed until last April as senior legal officer with the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, had denied the charges, insisting there was nothing sinister about invoicing the authority before completing the work. He claimed his son had accidentally removed case files from his study while tidying up and he had not noticed the vital paperwork had vanished.

Peter Grieves-Smith, for the prosecution, said that by the end of 1993 it was clear Aragon had a lot of outstanding cases in his work for the Immigration Appellate Authority. But he failed to return the backlog, despite an urgent request from the authority.

The authority's officers later recovered 584 files from Aragon's home. Of the 650 outstanding cases in his hands, 584 had not been worked on.

Accused fiancé 'had big debts'

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ambitious businessman accused of the cold-blooded "execution" of his fiancée's elderly parents was beset with money worries, a court was told yesterday.

Jonathan Jones, 35, who is on trial for murdering Harry and Megan Toozes with a shotgun, had less than £100 in his bank account but was planning to set up a market research firm. His bride-to-be, Cheryl Toozes, 34, was the sole beneficiary of her parents' estate, worth around £150,000, Mr Christopher Pitchford, QC, for the prosecution, told Newport Crown Court.

The jury heard that Mr Jones and Miss Toozes, who shared a flat in Orpington, Kent, were regularly in arrears with the rent and had no capital. Mr Jones, who denies the murders in July 1993, was unemployed.

"Not the circumstances in which you would expect to find two people about to lay out money to start up a business and to incur a monthly rent on office premises," said Mr Pitchford. "The defendant was preoccupied with money worries and ambition."

The Toozes left no will but a government pamphlet explaining how surviving relatives could be legally provided for was found in Jones's flat. Sections had been underlined and bore his palm prints, the court heard.

Mr Jones denied that he was motivated by money to kill the Toozes, who were found hidden under straw near their farmhouse. The trial continues.

Rolex robber convicted of raping victim

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who followed a millionaire's wife home after spotting her Rolex watch, was convicted yesterday of raping her. Police said after the case that they would question Leon Blackwood, 20, about a number of robberies on women wearing Rolexes.

A jury at the Old Bailey took 20 minutes to convict Blackwood yesterday after being told that the attack on the 45-year-old woman in August last year had devastated her life. She trembles each time the doorbell rings and is unhappy about being alone in her house in Belgravia, central London.

She told police that she no longer wore jewellery and locked her car doors all the time, even in her garage. She no longer went to social functions because "the rape occupies all my time. I don't want to make small talk."

The woman was walking her dog near her home when Blackwood, of Chelsea, west London, spotted her watch and followed her home. He knocked at her door and pretended he wanted directions to Victoria. He pushed his way in and demanded the watch and other jewellery.

The woman described how she believed his threat that he had a knife and was "led like a lamb to the slaughter" to be raped in her bedroom. Blackwood was caught after a couple who were in bed in the house called the police.

The woman told the jury that she had deliberately spoken loudly so that the couple would hear through the bedroom door, telling Blackwood "There is no money here." She said in evidence: "I heard a

small noise which I recognised as the creaking of the door and I knew they knew what was happening. I knew them well enough to know they were doing something, they were taking what they thought was sensible action."

When Blackwood heard the police sirens, he dived over the woman's balcony and escaped across roofs. But he fell, breaking his ankle, and was caught nearby with his victim's camera around his neck.



Blackwood: caught after fall from roof

and her Rolex and jewellery in his pocket.

He admitted robbery but denied rape, although DNA tests matched him to the woman and cross-matched her to him. There was less than a one-in-ten million chance of the DNA profile matching anyone else in the Afro-Caribbean population, the court was told.

Blackwood, who has a string of burglary convictions, will be sentenced later after psychiatric reports have been prepared.

Stable lad stalked and shot ex-fiancée

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JILTED stable lad stalked his former fiancée for eight months before using a sawn-off shotgun to wound her in the leg in a remote lay-by.

Barry Pearson then refused to get medical help for Madeleine Smith, 22, and drove her 140 miles to the flat they used to share in Lincolnshire, where she was held captive for five hours.

Tim Clayton, for the prosecution, said the couple became engaged on New Year's Eve 1991 and planned to marry last year but in October 1993 she told him she could not go through with the wedding.

Mr Pearson had reacted violently, the court was told. On one occasion he dragged her from a pub by her hair when he had seen her talking to another stable lad. Later the same night he attempted to run her over and issued a death threat while holding a knife to her throat.

Miss Smith moved back home to York, then Mr Pearson began making threatening telephone calls. Finally, on June 12 last year she agreed to meet him after he told her he was leaving for New Zealand. He said he had a present for her and handed her shotgun cartridges wrapped in paper, the Teesside Crown Court was told. He later shot her at close range.

Mr Clayton said, Mr Pearson, from Grantham, Lincolnshire, has denied wounding with intent, having a shotgun with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, and kidnap. The hearing continues.

Doctor fined for obscene calls

A DOCTOR who admitted making indecent telephone calls to women who attended his surgery was fined £750 and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to his victims yesterday. Dr Wayne Heaven, 35, admitted eight charges of

making indecent telephone calls. The victims were two young women patients from the practice where he worked as a locum. Kendal magistrates' court was told. Mark Sykes, for the prosecution, said that one of the victims

was so distressed when she received a call one night that she ran 100 yards to a friend's house.

Tony Butterworth, for the defence, said that Dr Heaven had been suffering from a short-term mental illness.

Woman 'was assaulted, stabbed and left for dead in country lane'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A YOUNG woman was kidnapped, stabbed and left for dead by a bogus taxi driver, a court heard yesterday.

Samantha Wilkie, 20, told Maidstone Crown Court that she had been kidnapped after leaving a nightclub in Dover on Easter Bank Holiday last year. She was sexually assaulted and left on an isolated lane with a stab wound that exposed her heart.

Miss Wilkie, of Dover, Kent, was rescued by a lorry driver who at first thought she was an injured animal as she was covered in so much blood. Surgeons operated three times to save her life. Martin Caldwell, 36, of

Dover, denies attempted murder, but admits wounding, abduction, false imprisonment and indecent assault.

Giving evidence, Miss Wilkie explained in a soft voice that she had gone to three pubs and a nightclub in Dover that night. "I got bored and waited outside," she told the court. "A car drove up, and the driver shouted 'taxi' out of the window, so I got in the back. I asked him to drive to Beaconsfield, but he went the opposite way. I realised it was not a taxi and was very scared."

The driver stopped the car at a disused garage. "He

locked the doors and told me to climb into the front," she said. "He pulled some rough string from his pocket and tied my hands up."

The driver then drove to a lane near Lydden, Kent, Miss Wilkie said. "I asked him where he was going and he said, 'Somewhere where you can't get the police.' He then indecently assaulted her."

She told the court the defendant then walked round the car and pulled her out, cutting the string round her wrists with a knife. He stabbed under my left breast and he kept pushing the knife into me," she said. "He then spun me round, stabbing me twice

on the left side of my upper back. I leaned on to a fence and then toppled into the field. I lay on the ground and pretended to be dead."

Miss Wilkie said she pulled her clothing tight to try to stem the bleeding. She staggered down the lane, trying to find a house and collapsed.

Maura McGowan, for the prosecution, said the woman had been left for dead. "If a lorry driver had not used that isolated lane, she would not have survived the attack."

The lorry driver, Kevin Stone, had called the police and ambulance. The case continues.

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PC

Prescott's car stolen near Tory Party HQ

By Kevin Eason
MOTORING
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Prescott, Labour's deputy leader and chief recruiting officer, has joined the ranks of the thousands of motorists to have had their car stolen. Mr Prescott left his gun-metal grey Jaguar Sovereign parked in Smith Square, only yards from the Conservative Party headquarters in Westminster, while he was interviewed by a radio reporter. When he returned, the F-registered car, he describes as his "pride and joy" had gone. He immediately rang his mobile telephone. "I would have politely asked if I could have it back," Mr Prescott said.

The car was full of Labour Party documents — application forms for membership. "I hope the thieves have distributed lots of them," Mr Prescott said.

Dunaway wins secret payout over Sunset role

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber has agreed to pay the actress Faye Dunaway substantial compensation for dropping her from the American production of his musical *Sunset Boulevard*.

The out of court settlement follows a high profile dispute last summer when the composer said Miss Dunaway's singing voice was not good enough to carry her through the show's Los Angeles production.

Miss Dunaway, 53, launched a lawsuit seeking £4 million damages for breach of contract, fraud and defamation, and described Sir Andrew as a "cold-blooded character assassin". His spokesmen accused the actress of trying to mount a public relations stunt and claiming Sir Andrew had only been trying to save her from

public ridicule. Under the terms of the settlement, Sir Andrew and Miss Dunaway have agreed not to say anything about each other in public apart from the carefully worded quotes issued in an agreed statement.

They have pledged to keep the financial terms of the settlement secret, but it is understood Miss Dunaway's compensation is "nowhere near" the £1 million that had been rumoured.

In the joint statement, issued in London and New York, Miss Dunaway, who made her name in the 1967 film *Bonnie and Clyde*, said she was pleased they had been able to patch up their differences and avoid a courtroom battle. "When strong, artistic personalities are separated by thousands of miles, the pro-



Faye Dunaway asked for £4m in damages after she was dropped by Sir Andrew

cess of putting together a production as complex as *Sunset Boulevard* becomes difficult, at best, divisive, at worst," she said.

"I accepted the role of Norma Desmond, in part, because of my admiration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's ability to put his finger on the pulse of the theatre-going public. He has created memorable musical theatre, and I have great

respect for his achievements," she added.

Sir Andrew said the actress was an extraordinary talent. "I hope our paths cross one day in happier circumstances where my regard for her abilities can be shown more fruitfully. I wish her every success in her endeavours."

It was not the first time *Sunset Boulevard* had been hit by off-stage drama. Last

March Sir Andrew's Really Useful Group reportedly paid the actress Patti LaPore — who opened the London production in July 1993 — more than £660,000 not to star in the New York production after the composer decided he preferred the actress Glenn Close.

The New York production has been an enormous success, taking a record £20 million in advance bookings.

Attackers steal jewellery after threatening baby

By Marianne Darch

POLICE warned women against wearing expensive jewellery when out shopping yesterday after three masked men robbed the daughter of a Panamanian politician of her Rolex watch and jewellery. They threatened to kill her eight-week-old baby.

Sofi Anderson, 31, was mugged as she unloaded her white Mercedes outside her house in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, on Friday night. Her daughter, Tiffany, was still strapped into the back seat. The attackers took a £1,000 handbag, her diamond-studded watch and jewellery worth £8,000.

Mrs Anderson said: "One robber took my legs and put me down on the floor. One put his hand over my mouth and told me not to scream because they would kill my baby. They had stockings on their faces. They said if you don't want the baby to get hurt, don't scream."

She believes she was targeted by the robbers during her shopping trip to the Chanel boutique in Bond Street in London. "These are dangerous men. Tiffany was unharmed. She was too young to realise what was happening. The worst thing was that they knew me and followed me. They didn't need a weapon. How could I defend myself? It was three men against a woman and her baby."

Mrs Anderson, a medical scientist, added: "I wear my jewels to go to the shops because I like them. Now I will wear less jewellery when I go out. The lesson is you must be careful what you wear and where you go."

A spokesman from Thames Valley Police said: "People who go out openly wearing high-value jewellery have to bear in mind that they are attractive items and this could

happen." He said there had been a number of similar attacks in the Home Counties and that they were looking to see if there was a link.

Police think it unlikely that there is a connection with the car-jacking of Mina Mullins, who was robbed at gunpoint on a slip road of the M25 in Egham, Surrey, last year, but there are striking similarities between the cases.

Iranian-born Mrs Mullins, whose husband is a wealthy businessman, was returning from an engagement party in London to her home in Westwood when her Mercedes was rammed by a stolen vehicle. Her attackers stole her car and jewellery worth more than £160,000.

Mrs Mullins said yesterday that she was still affected by the attack. "I think they picked on me because I was in a nice car. They go for women alone in a Mercedes."

"It gives you a horrible feeling. I continue with my normal routine but it's always there at the back of my mind. I think maybe the only answer is when you are alone, not to wear any jewellery."



Sofi Anderson and daughter Tiffany

Hauliers deny sheep transport cruelty

By Michael Hornsey

TWO brothers who run a livestock haulage business appeared before Salisbury magistrates yesterday *mon* accused of causing unnecessary suffering to animals transported to the Continent.

Peter and Jeremy Francis, of Haydon Wick, near Swindon, deny more than 30 charges, mostly relating to transporting sheep from Somerset to southern France in September, 1993. They are accused of keeping animals on the road for up to 30 hours without rest, food or water, twice as long as is permitted under British law. The hearing continues today.

The case, based on investigations by Wiltshire County Council's animal health department, is similar to that brought earlier this month by North Yorkshire trading standards officers, which resulted in a £12,000 fine and a costs order of £9,971.

Gordon Gresty, chairman of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, said yesterday that legislation due to come into effect next Monday could make prosecution of livestock hauliers harder rather than easier as William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, claimed. It would lead to "many unnecessary legal arguments which will hamper enforcement".

Lorry turned back, page 1

Parents may sue over Army son's death

By A Staff Reporter

THE parents of an Army officer were considering legal action against Ministry of Defence last night after an inquest into the death of their son during a mock battle.

Denis and Suzanne Kelly accused the Army of a cover-up after a jury at Southwark Coroner's Court, south London, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Captain Christopher Kelly, 26, a paratrooper who was shot to death after being mistaken for a cut-out plywood target. The Kellys said that despite six days of evidence they were no closer to discovering the truth behind his death.

They said that their son, who was engaged to be married, was not given enough time to find a specially prepared firing trench when the assault was brought forward an hour by his commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mal Worsley-Tonks. Lieutenant Peter Chapman, who was wounded in the leg, claimed that Captain Kelly made three radio requests to stop the advancing troops, but they went unheeded.

Logs of radio messages which may have cleared up disputed evidence were not made during the vital moments. Mrs Kelly said: "I'm disappointed with the verdict. We had hoped for a verdict of unlawful killing."

'Poached' Radio 1 DJ misses show

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

STEVE WRIGHT, the Radio 1 disc jockey who announced his departure from the station at the weekend, failed to appear on his show yesterday morning, apparently suffering from flu.

Wright, Radio 1's most popular presenter and host of its flagship breakfast show, is reported to be about to sign a two-year £600,000 contract with Talk Radio, Britain's first national commercial speech station, which will be launched next month.

A BBC spokeswoman denied the reports and said that Wright, 40, was leaving to concentrate on producing and presenting television shows for the BBC's head of light entertainment, David Liddiment. He was expected back at work on Wednesday. "I admit that with all this

speculation around it looks a bit of a coincidence to say that he has got the flu. But anyone who heard his show on Friday will know that he was not well."

In a further twist yesterday, BBC Television confirmed that one of Wright's shows, *Home Truths*, had not been commissioned for a new series. A spokeswoman denied that the decision had anything to do with speculation that he was to join a rival radio network.

His defection to a commercial rival would represent a blow to Radio 1, which has lost 45 million listeners in the past year, many of them to the commercial sector. Matthew Bannister, Radio 1 controller, is expected to announce Wright's departure date today.

My son has cerebral palsy and the mental age of a twelve year old. He's ten.

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Minister rejects inquiry call to turn Mental Health Act 'upside down' after stabbing of therapist

Mental hospitals 'ignored' killer's 15 years of violence

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE stabbing to death of a therapist by a schizophrenic patient with a 15-year history of violence exposed fundamental flaws in the mental health laws, an independent report said yesterday.

But its call for the Mental Health Act to be "turned upside down" was rejected by John Bowis, a junior health minister, who argued that the Government's Mental Health Bill would introduce new powers of supervision for mental patients in the community which would go some way to meet concerns.

Georgina Robinson, 26, an occupational therapist at the Edith Morgan Centre, for acute psychiatric care, Torquay, was killed by Andrew Robinson (no relation), who stabbed her seven times in the neck with a kitchen knife in September 1993.

A panel chaired by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, said that over 15 years doctors had disregarded Robinson's violent behaviour. Doctors and managers failed to understand the powers they had to control violent patients under the Act and placed too much emphasis on their civil liberties.

Robinson, 36, the son of a

clergyman, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and had been in and out of mental hospitals, including Broadmoor, since 1978. On September 1, 1993, he stabbed Miss Robinson in the face and neck. She died after five weeks. Most of which she was conscious but paralysed and unable to speak, and "must have undergone pain and suffering", the inquiry says. Robinson admitted manslaughter and was sent to Broadmoor.

Signs of the impending catastrophe were evident from the beginning, the report says. "It was entirely predictable that one day Andrew Robinson, if he was not maintained on medication under proper supervision, would attack someone — probably a young woman."

Wendy Robinson, Georgina's mother, was not overstating the case when she told us that her daughter's life was sacrificed to the inadequate care and treatment provided ... for severely mentally disordered people.

The National Association for Mental Health (NAMH) called the inquiry's recommendations damaging and misleading. New legal powers to make people take medica-

tion was not the answer for those diagnosed mentally ill. "We simply don't see, on the basis of this one case of somebody who killed while a patient in hospital, that the inquiry team should ask for an overhaul in the law."

David Hinchliffe, the Labour spokesman on Community Care, said: "We are concerned that the Government are using the Blom-Cooper report to make their case for a new supervision discharge order, when the report shows that Mr Robinson was previously cared for successfully under an existing guardianship order."

The first signs of Robinson's illness appeared when he became obsessed by the size of his nose while a student in 1976. He believed women were repulsed by it and underwent disastrous plastic surgery. The next year, he met a fellow student with whom he had an affair that lasted only four days but he remained obsessed by her for 15 years.

Six months later he burst into her room with a loaded shotgun and pointed it at her head. There was a struggle and the gun was fired at the ceiling. This first offence, for which Robinson was sent to Broadmoor, was played down by doctors. "The risk of danger hung over him like a brooding omnipresence."

Repeated pleas by his parents, the Rev and Mrs Peter Robinson, went unheeded by medical staff. Sir Louis, from whom the report was commissioned by the South Devon Healthcare Trust, said listening to the patient's family and friends was the single most important recommendation in the report. "Managers and professionals heard what was said but I'm not sure they listened attentively enough."

Anthony Boyce, the chairman of the trust, said there would be no disciplinary action. Although mistakes had been made, all the staff involved had worked with "care and compassion".



Georgina Robinson, the 26-year-old therapist killed by a psychiatric patient in 1993

DEATHS AT THE EDITH MORGAN CENTRE

The Edith Morgan Centre has a history of violent and fatal incidents involving patients and staff since it opened in December 1985:

January 1987: first suicide by a recently discharged patient.

1988: two patient suicides.

1989: two patient suicides and one killing. In August, Julian Hall, a paranoid schizophrenic, killed his ex-girlfriend's lover with a plank.

1990: three patient suicides. Independent inquiry recommended that the centre should close.

1991: three patient suicides.

1992: six patient suicides.

1993: five suicides and on September 1 Georgina Robinson was fatally stabbed by Andrew Robinson. September 28: Paul Murch, a schizophrenic patient, escaped and

hanged himself in a nearby shed. December 15: Stephen Hext, a 21-year-old schizophrenic patient at the centre, jumped to his death from a multi-storey car-park in Torquay.

1994: April 4: Martin Reger, detained under the Mental Health Act, died in his fume-filled car an hour after being discharged.

April 18: second independent report recommends closure.

May 13: Anthony Peters attacks nursing assistant.

June 13: two female patients detained under the Mental Health Act "go missing".

July 7: 23-year-old David Falconer, a psychotic patient, died after allegedly being injected with drugs while being restrained by staff.

Patients who went on to become killers

LAST October the Royal College of Psychiatrists disclosed that in three years 34 killers had had treatment the year before committing their crimes. They said at least 13 killings could have been avoided with closer supervision (Robin Young writes).

The cases included: Christopher Clunis, 30, a schizophrenic, who stabbed to death Jonathan Zito, 27, after selecting him from a crowd at a London Underground station in December 1992, weeks after his release from hospital.

Carol Barratt, 24, a psychiatric patient who stabbed Emma Brodie, 11, to death in a Doncaster shopping pre-

dict in April 1991, having been released from hospital 48 hours previously.

Michael Buchanan, a psychiatric patient, murdered Frederick Graver, 54, on his fourth release from hospital.

Dennis Archer, being treated for severe depression, who axed his wife Margaret to death and then committed suicide in July 1993.

Rodney Rollins, 24, who killed his father, Joseph, in November 1993 after being released by magistrates.

In October last year a hospital out-patient aged 32 was arrested after allegedly stabbing to death a mother of four young children in Herne Hill, south London.



Mrs Robinson backed Blom-Cooper report

WENDY ROBINSON, the mother of the therapist who was stabbed to death by a schizophrenic yesterday called for better care of the mentally ill. "We've had a disaster. So many people are suffering like we are. People have got to listen. We want this suffering to end," she said.

Mrs Robinson, 54, said she was "appalled" at the way patients, such as Andrew Robinson, who killed her daughter Georgina, were allowed to come and go from the Edith Morgan Centre, Torbay Hospital without supervision. It was on one such trip that Robinson bought the kitchen knife he later used to attack Georgina.

"I could not believe it. I find it incredible. They allowed this man his freedom and in doing so took away Georgina's," Mrs Robinson said.

Georgina was 26 when she was killed. A keen rower and cyclist, she had decided to work with the mentally ill because she found it more fulfilling than general hospital work. She had been offered a job at another hospital but the Edith Morgan Centre was closer to Exeter where she lived with her boyfriend.

Georgina had had no con-

tact with Robinson. They were strangers. His attack was "random, motiveless and senseless", the report of the inquiry headed by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper says.

Mrs Robinson said she was considering legal action against South Devon Health Care Trust but would not demand disciplinary action against individuals, or resignations: "I leave it to people's own consciences to decide what they should do."

Mrs Robinson said her family was very pleased with the report. "We would like the report to go to the Government, and we would like them to read it and take it seriously."

Robinson's father, the Rev Peter Robinson, said he could not apportion blame. "I don't think it helps to make scapegoats." He said he felt "desperately sorry" for his son and for Georgina's family.

The inquiry report says the two families shared "a common grief. If their crisis do no more than arouse policymakers, managers and professionals to listen more attentively, the tragedy will not have been in vain," it says.

Mrs Robinson, of Fairfield, Gloucestershire, endorsed Sir Louis's suggested changes to the Mental Health Act. Clarification was needed because people were finding it difficult to follow. "I wish I was confident these changes would take place, but I don't know that the Government are totally behind it," she said. Certain patients needed special care, but it was not available.



Robinson: "risk of danger hung brooding over him"

Psychiatric nurse helps police to distinguish the mentally ill

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PSYCHIATRIC nurse has been seconded to three of London's busiest police stations to help police to cope with rising numbers of mentally ill suspects.

David Etherington is being funded by the Home Office for a one-year pilot scheme to assess whether suspects should be diverted from the police to psychiatric teams and hospitals. The scheme has been prompted partly by the case of Christopher Clunis, a schizophrenic who in 1992 killed Jonathan Zito, a stranger, at a north London Underground station.

Police and psychiatrists have become increasingly concerned about the plight of patients such as Clunis, who are released under care in the community schemes and end up wandering the streets. Up to 30 per cent of homeless

people living on the streets are estimated to be mentally ill and Scotland Yard has launched a scheme to train all its 28,000 officers how to deal with them.

A survey of one north London area last year showed stations dealt with 197 mentally disordered people in 28 days. Other research suggests up to 6 per cent of all suspects detained are suffering from mental disorder. A special psychiatric team offers instant assessment for defendants at one of London's main magistrates' courts.

Mr Etherington, who covers Charing Cross, West End Central and Marylebone stations, said the police themselves and police surgeons were good at identifying people who were overtly suffering from mental illness. He patrols the area between nor-

mality and illness. Mr Etherington, veteran of an emergency team attached to the Maudsley Hospital in south London, said the people he saw might not be openly psychotic or schizophrenic but he pointed out that a depressive



Etherington: on secondment to police

could descend into violence. He was called to one man who was arrested after going to strike an officer as he made a complaint in a station. The man was frantically banging his head against the cell wall. He was extremely claustrophobic and very demonstrable by nature. Police released him.

Many of the people Mr Etherington sees have been brought into stations for minor matters. Usually homeless, they may have come to London because they wanted to avoid treatment.

The people he sees may avoid being charged, be passed to a psychiatric team, admitted to hospital or passed back to face a court. Mr Etherington and Sergeant Paul Etheridge, a Yard expert on policy for the mentally ill, believe the station assessment can save time and cost.

Ministers pledge to improve NHS breast cancer checks

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE National Health Service is to improve its system of breast cancer checks, the Government said yesterday. Women being screened for the first time will have two views taken of each breast and radiologists will be trained to improve their ability to identify cancers.

The move follows research by Professor Nicholas Wald, of the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at St

Bartholomew's Hospital in central London, which looked at the results of screening 100,000 women since 1988. It concluded that taking two views of each breast helped to identify tumours more accurately. Sharper X-rays would also help to identify malignancies.

The standard screening method is to take one diagonal view of each breast. Professor Wald's research recommends

that a second view be taken from above. More than half the 90 units in the NHS breast screening programme have adopted the new method and the rest are expected to begin by the summer.

Julietta Patrick, national co-ordinator of the NHS Breast Screening Programme, said: "The move to two views will be welcomed by everyone in the programme as it will help us to be more effective at detecting cancers and at ensuring that women are not recalled for further investigation unnecessarily."

"There are concerns about the number of cancers that have occurred in women between the three-yearly screening interval in the first few years of the programme. We are confident that with the move to two-view screening, along with a number of other improvements in technology and in techniques, we will start to see a decrease in the number of these interval cancers."

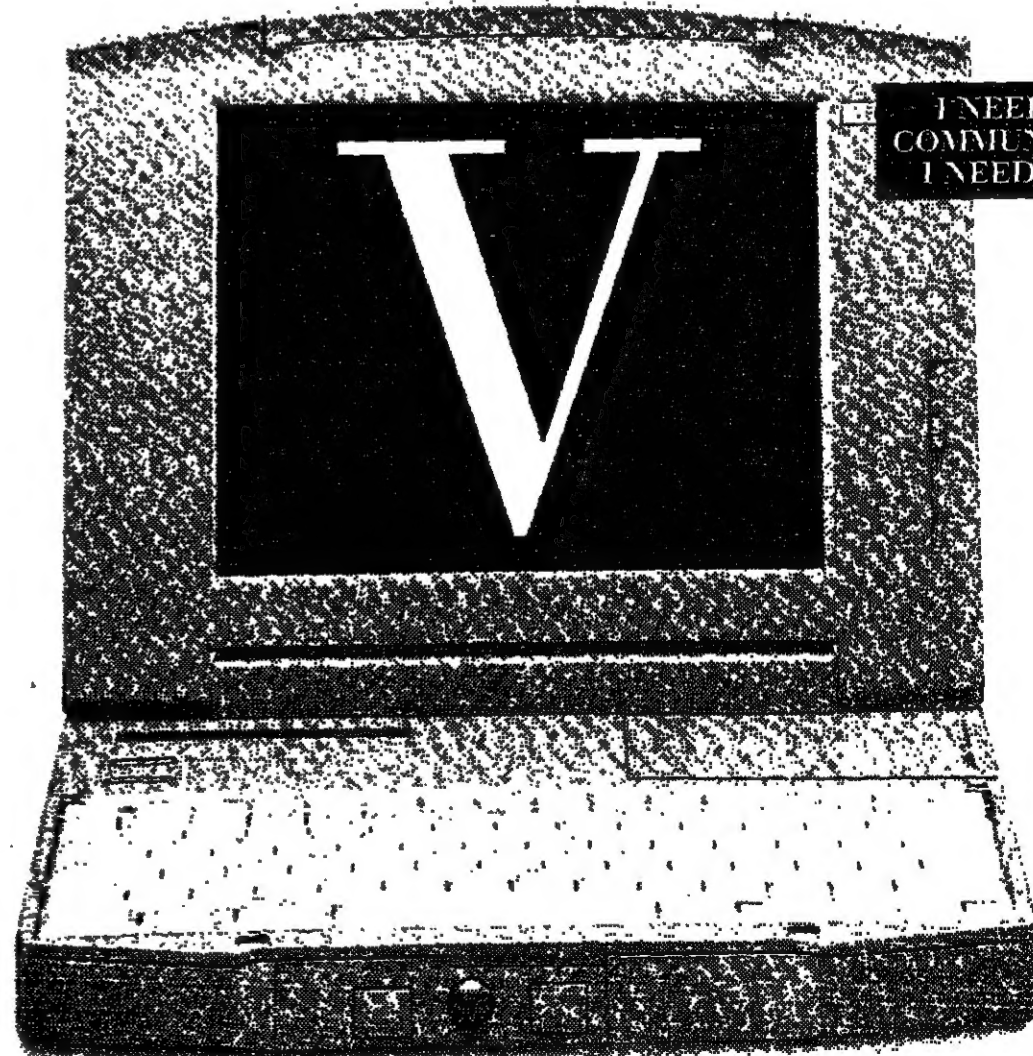
Horse trainer injured in fall

By ROBIN YOUNG

A NATIONAL Hunt trainer suffered serious spinal injuries yesterday when she was thrown from her horse. Elsie Mitchell, 47, a former amateur jockey, was riding with her husband, Norman, 49, when she fell.

Mr Mitchell galloped home to East Hill Stables, near Piddletrenthide, Dorset, to raise the alarm. Mrs Mitchell, a mother of three, was taken to hospital in Weymouth. Her son Nick, 25, said yesterday that his mother had fallen badly. "She was out for a canter and the horse had a bit of a flick and she landed on the base of her spine."

Mr and Mrs Mitchell train about 20 National Hunt horses and were putting two through their paces when the accident happened. Mrs Mitchell's condition was described as comfortable last night.



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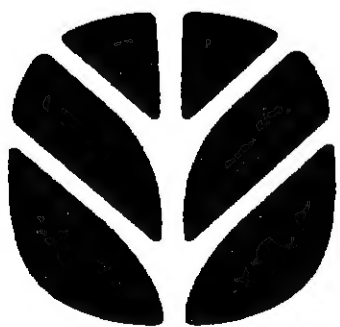
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Sun attacked over photos from Parker Bowles home

By ALAN HAMILTON

BRIGADIER Andrew Parker Bowles and his wife, Camilla, issued a statement through their lawyers yesterday, condemning newspaper publication of a photograph of a four-poster double bed at their home in Corsham, Wiltshire.

The picture was published by *The Sun* to accompany allegations that the bed had been used by Mrs Parker Bowles and the Prince of Wales. The newspaper also published a photograph of a single bed to which, it claimed, Brigadier Parker Bowles had been banished while his wife had an affair with the Prince.

In a statement issued jointly

the *News Of The World*, of a picture of the Prince of Wales's bedside table at Highgrove. The centre-piece was a photograph of Mrs Parker Bowles on a garden bench outside the royal family's house at Birkhall, near Balmoral.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that an investigation was under way to discover how Ken Stronach, 50, the Prince's valet, had come to make allegations of his master's relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles and to hand over a photograph taken inside a private royal residence. Police are expected to be involved in the inquiry because of the security implications but the Prince's office would not say whether Mr Stronach had been interviewed by police or by Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince's private secretary.

Mr Stronach, who had been accompanying the Prince on a private weekend visit to Birkhall, was suspended on full pay pending an investigation as soon as his disclosures to the *News of the World* became known. The Prince's office would not be drawn yesterday on whether it would seek an injunction preventing publication of further disclosures by the valet.

Mr Stronach's first wife, Lillian, alleged yesterday that he was a wife-beater. She said she was forced to obtain an injunction in 1985 to prevent him from contacting her. "Ken threatened to smash a glass in my face or disfigure me with the knife he kept by his bed," she said. "He even said he would shoot me in the legs."

Yesterday *The Sun* published what it described as two "devastating" new chapters to *Camilla - The King's Mistress*, by Caroline Graham, a former *Sun* journalist. The book alleges that Brigadier and Mrs Parker Bowles decided not to divorce while her mother, Rosalind Shand, was alive. Mrs Shand died in July, aged 74.



Stronach's valet gave photograph to paper

by their respective solicitors, the Parker Bowleses, who are to divorce soon, accused *The Sun* of publishing photographs "copies of which have either been purloined without our consent or knowledge from a family album at our home, or which have been taken inside our home, presumably in our absence."

The statement added that the couple intended to take no further action at this stage, although a spokesman for the solicitors would not rule out the possibility.

Publication of the picture by *The Sun* follows Sunday's publication by its sister paper,



Japanese tourists in central London yesterday, taking no chances with the air they breathe, make an eloquent point about air quality

London drivers face £5,000 fine over faulty exhausts Bill 'means fewer polluters caught'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DRIVERS whose vehicles break pollution limits in London face a £5,000 fine under legislation before Parliament. The move would allow council employees or private contractors to have police-style powers to stop, test and fine vehicles.

The scheme is being promoted by the capital's councils under the London Local Authorities Bill. Dr Jeremy Vanke, environment manager of the Royal Automobile Club, yesterday accused the councils of having drafted a revenue-raising Bill under the guise of caring for the environment. "This £5,000

fine is completely without precedent and would lead to a two-tier system, with emission faults being treated in a different way to all other vehicle faults," he said.

At the moment drivers face only a £1,000 fine if they are found to have vehicle faults that they fail to rectify in a set period of time.

Dr Vanke said the RAC was also worried about the huge powers that the Bill seeks to secure for a council's "authorised officer", which may include a parking ward or private contractor, unaccompanied by a police officer, who would have the

right to flag down and climb into a vehicle for the purposes of testing its emissions. The fines and extra powers are being spearheaded by Tory-controlled Westminster City Council, which has placed the private Bill before Parliament. Other provisions include the use of cameras to enforce bus lanes.

The Bill would allow councils to issue immediate fixed penalties and to move to the £5,000 fine if the driver failed to rectify emission faults. The Bill has a reasonable chance of becoming law as ministers are under pressure to curb air pollution.

ANTI-pollution inspectors will be powerless to stop old rubbish dumps contaminating rivers under government proposals for a national environmental agency, it was claimed yesterday (Nick Nuttall writes).

The National Rivers Authority (NRA), which will today seek a series of amendments to the Environment Agencies Bill, says the new body will be powerless in several key areas. Hundreds of miles of waterways suffer from chemicals leaking from polluted land and old mines. But the Bill requires councils first to list a site as contaminated before the agency's officials can act.

Most of the nation's old rubbish dumps are owned by metropolitan and county councils and the costs of cleaning them could be high. Dr Geoff Mance, of the NRA, said: "Many councils may have quite a strong incentive to sit on their hands. We want an enforcement power so that if the local authority does not initiate action, after a reasonable time we can."

Critics of the agencies Bill, which will merge the powers of the NRA, the Inspectorate of Pollution and regional waste authorities, claim the Government has been too concerned with costs to industry rather than protecting the environment, and that the Bill could reduce the number of polluters prosecuted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£15,000 fine for asbestos clearance

A company was fined £15,000 yesterday for haphazard clearance of asbestos from a factory site.

Alan Craddock, for the prosecution, told Wolverhampton magistrates that millions of asbestos fibres were scattered into the air and that a skip loaded with asbestos had shed fibres during a 40-mile round trip from Wolverhampton to Telford. Rolls-Royce Nuclear Engineering Services, of Ettingshall, admitted failing to ensure the health and safety of people not in its employment.

Drug gang jailed

Three men involved in smuggling cocaine with a street value of £3 million were jailed at Liverpool yesterday. Diego Miceli, 35, of Halewood, Liverpool, received 21 years, Antonio Ciracola, 30, of Everton, 18 years and Santo Piconi, 34, of Toxteth, 12 years.

Textile death

A 29-year-old textile worker was killed early yesterday at a factory in Wigan after being pulled into a threading machine. Health and Safety officials are investigating.

Swan fines

Two men were fined £1,000 each after admitting shooting swans on a marsh in Dumfries and Galloway. Their shotguns were confiscated by Stranraer Sheriff Court.

Lip bitten off

A man had his lip bitten off in an unprovoked attack by a teenage gang in Newcastle upon Tyne. Joe MacKinnon, 18, was waiting for a bus with a friend.

Girl killed

Lea Forbes, 18, was killed and three youths injured early yesterday when a stolen car in which they were travelling crashed into a lamp-post in Aberdeen and overturned.

Face the music

Bristol magistrates have fined Ann Tatum £875 for repeatedly playing loud music. Neighbours complained that it could be heard 50 metres from her home in Lockleaze.

Princess 'willing to give evidence'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess of Wales is ready and willing to go into the witness box next month in her legal action over publication of photographs of her privately exercising in a gym, her lawyers said yesterday.

The Princess's determination to go ahead comes after news that Bryce Taylor, the owner of the West London gym, was granted legal aid to fight the proceedings. If the case does proceed — and there is still a chance it may be settled out of court — the Princess would be the first member of the Royal Family

to enter the witness box since the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, in 1891.

Anthony Julius, partner with Mishcon de Reya, the Princess's lawyers, said yesterday: "The trial is scheduled for Monday February 13; we have served a witness statement for the Princess and she is ready to give evidence."

The case, which arises after sneaked photographs of the Princess were published in the *Daily Mirror*, is likely to last just under two weeks. The Princess is suing Mr Taylor and Mirror Group Newspa-

pers for breach of contract, of confidence and of fiduciary duty. Her case is being handled by Lord Mishcon, a consultant with the firm he founded, and Karen Sanig, a solicitor in the litigation department. Andrew Caldecott, QC, will be the Princess's counsel.

The Princess would be putting herself at the mercy of Geoffrey Robertson, a leading QC on the left-wing of the legal profession known for his anti-establishment views, who is acting for Mr Taylor and who would be able to cross-examine her.

Mr Taylor, whose legal aid bill could total £200,000, might have settled out of court had legal aid not been granted. He had wanted to pay his lawyers from the profits from the sale of the pictures, thought to total £70,000, but the profits were frozen pending the outcome of the case.

Mr Taylor applied to pay his legal costs out of the frozen assets but a High Court judge ruled that only one third be available for legal fees. Mr Taylor could not pay his full costs without legal aid.

Why Do You Read So Slowly?

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Cult three-wheeler lives to drive again

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

RELIANT, maker of the cult three-wheeled cars made famous by Del Boy Trotter in BBC's *Only Fools and Horses*, has been rescued from the receivers.

Two property developers whose offices stand next to the 60-year-old company in Tamworth, Staffordshire, have bought the two-acre site and leased it to Avonex, an aerospace engineering company, which plans to turn the business around within two months.

Roger Smith, chairman of Smith Brothers, said: "The Reliant company has been an important feature of the Tamworth economy for many years and, as the factory is virtually next door to our headquarters, we felt we had to make every effort to ensure the firm's continuing existence."

Avonex believes output could return to pre-receivership levels of 800 three-wheelers and Sabre Scimitar

sports cars a year. It is the second time in three years that Reliant has had to be rescued. The carmaker's latest difficulties arose when its owner, Beans Industries, collapsed in November. A buyer for Beans, which manufactures motor components, has yet to be found.

If receivers had been unable to find a buyer for Reliant, the loss would have left a hole in British motoring culture. The three-wheeler is cemented in the public mind as the essential transport for Trotters Independent Traders in the television series in which Del Boy and his brother Rodney careered from crisis to crisis in their Reliant van.

With their rust-resistant glass fibre shells and economical 850cc engines, the three-wheeler Reliants and Robins, designed in 1935, have remained remarkably popular — in part, perhaps, because owners need only a motorcycle licence to drive them.



The Reliant has won a place in the nation's heart

25% rise in airline crash fatalities

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE number of passengers who died in airline accidents around the world last year rose by 25 per cent, to 1,385. Pilot error was again the main cause of the crashes, *Flight International* magazine said.

The number of fatal crashes, at 47, was slightly lower than in 1993; the rise in the number of deaths reflected the increase in the size of aircraft. Insurance claims after the accidents are likely to be double those for 1993 and reach \$2 billion (about £1.3 billion), according to the report.

David Learmont, *Flight International's* safety editor, said the number of accidents in which there was significant pilot error was "depressingly familiar" to previous years. There was little evidence so far that sophisticated aircraft designed to eliminate pilot error were doing so.

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3. Your personal details

Height: _____

Build: slight ☐ medium ☐ large ☐

Hair colour: _____

Dress/Looks: casual ☐ fashionable ☐ elegant ☐ sporty ☐

4. Your work

Present job: _____

Self-employed ☐ employed ☐

civil servant ☐ manual worker ☐

part-time ☐ not working ☐

unemployed ☐ in-training ☐

Schooling

O levels / GCSE's ☐ A levels ☐

Further Education ☐ Polytechnic ☐

University ☐ Business School ☐

Other: _____

5. Your Personality

☐ Warmhearted ☐ Fashionable

☐ Serious ☐ Practical

☐ Considerate ☐ Conventional

☐ Shy ☐ Reliable

☐ Romantic ☐ Adventurous

6. How would people who know you best describe you?

☐ always ready for a joke

☐ somewhat dreamy

☐ never has problems

☐ takes life a bit too seriously

☐ not easily upset

☐ always active

☐ chatty

7. Your interests

☐ Wine/Dining ☐ Jazz/Folk music

☐ Pubs ☐ Classical music

☐ Sports/Keep fit ☐ Theatre/Arts

☐ Politics/History ☐ Watching TV

☐ Reading ☐ Smoking

☐ Travelling ☐ Drinking

☐ Science/Tech ☐ Children

☐ Cinema ☐ Homemaking

☐ Pets/Animals ☐ Gardening

☐ Pop music ☐ Countryside

8. Details of the partner you would like:

Min. age: _____ Max. age: _____

Height: min. _____ max. _____

Don't mind ☐

Children? Yes, at home ☐

Yes, living elsewhere ☐ None ☐

Marital status: Single ☐ Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐ Separated ☐

Don't mind ☐

9. Which of the three pictures do you prefer? (tick the box)

Dept. TS11

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Ex-deputy is appointed to top job at Parkhurst

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service yesterday appointed a former deputy governor at Parkhurst to run the top-security jail from which two murderers and an arsonist escaped.

Max Morrison, 50, takes on the top job at the Isle of Wight jail after the Prison Service forced John Marriott to leave the job in the wake of the breakout by the life-sentence prisoners.

Mr Morrison, a graduate, has been promoted from a governor 2 post to become one of the country's top six governors in charge of maximum-security jails. He said yesterday: "It is a step up for me but the same rules apply. I have my own style of doing things and I shall run this prison in my own way."

Security at Parkhurst has been increased since the recapture of the three convicts last week. Mr Morrison, previously governor of Albany jail, less than 400 yards from the gates of Parkhurst, said: "There should be no problems that can't be sorted out."

He said he had talked to Mr Marriott before accepting the job. "It is a very great honour to be appointed governor of Parkhurst but I would rather

it had been under different circumstances." He has run a "constructive regime" at Albany jail and said he would not be seeking to make dramatic changes at Parkhurst though there would be a "slight change of emphasis".

Mr Morrison's initial tasks will be to restore morale at the jail, implement new security measures and ensure that staff carry out the Prison Service's rules. "I am expecting to have to implement hundreds of recommendations from the security investigation team, on top of all the other work that has to be done."

No one has escaped from Albany in the 30 years since it opened on the Isle of Wight. Mr Morrison has been governor there since 1993 and was deputy governor at Parkhurst for six years until 1985. While at Parkhurst he had special responsibility for controlling disruptive prisoners in the jail's special unit.

Mr Morrison, married with two children, also spent three years at Prison Service headquarters working on overall security policy in the penal system. He has spent 28 years in the Prison Service, working at Dover, Brixton in Suffolk and at Albany and Camp Hill on the Isle of Wight.

One prison source said that Mr Morrison's attraction to a Prison Service facing serious problems was that he had a "safe pair of hands" and was "not very exciting". John Marriott ran a fairly exciting ship. I can't see Max running it like that. My only worry is that as a former deputy he may not bring a fresh eye to the problems at Parkhurst."

Alan Walker, deputy chief executive of the Scottish Prison Service, is to head the disciplinary inquiry into the Parkhurst escape.



Morrison: "I'll run jail my own way"

Gene test can detect phoney fruit juices

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists have developed a genetic fingerprinting test that will enable trading standards officers to detect phoney fruit juices.

Sellers of fruit juices are required to meet strict labelling standards under European Union rules. But some try to increase profits on orange juice by adding tangerine, grapefruit or apple to make low-grade juice look

and taste better. Others add sugar beet liquids or hybrid oranges, which are illegal additives in Britain.

A team based at the University of Leicester has developed a simple genetic test that can detect the purity of different fruit juices. It believes that similar techniques could also be used to check the constituents of jams, yoghurts and other foods.

Resin copy of patient's skull helps surgeon to rebuild face

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURGEON has used a plastic replica of a patient's skull to help him to reconstruct the face of a lorry driver badly injured in a motor accident.

Keith Postlethwaite, a surgeon at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, studied a full-size model of the man's skull to work out in advance how to reassemble and fasten together the badly broken bones. He believes it was the first time that such a technique has been used in Britain.

Despite six previous operations, the lorry driver, Maurice Bell, could neither talk nor eat solid food after a crash four years ago left him unable to open his jaw more than two millimetres. He has now made a full recovery.

Mr Postlethwaite hopes to use the technique regularly.



Mr Postlethwaite with the plastic model of a patient's skull he used to practise on before he went into the operating theatre

"It enables you to see what's going on," he said. "You can hold the model in your hand and practise surgery on it, cutting it up and repositioning the bones. We use lots of plates and screws to hold the bones together and with the model we can prepare them in advance. It cuts down a lot of time on the operating

table." The models are made using an industrial prototyping technique called stereolithography, normally used to change computer designs into solid three-dimensional models.

To make the skull, a computer scans the patient's head in a series of 0.15mm slices. Copies of these slices

are then traced out by lasers in resin and bonded together to form the full skull.

Gordon Styles, managing director of the Stockton-on-Tees company that made the model, said the process takes about 28 hours, and costs £3,800 for the two replicas needed by the surgeon — one to practise on, the other as

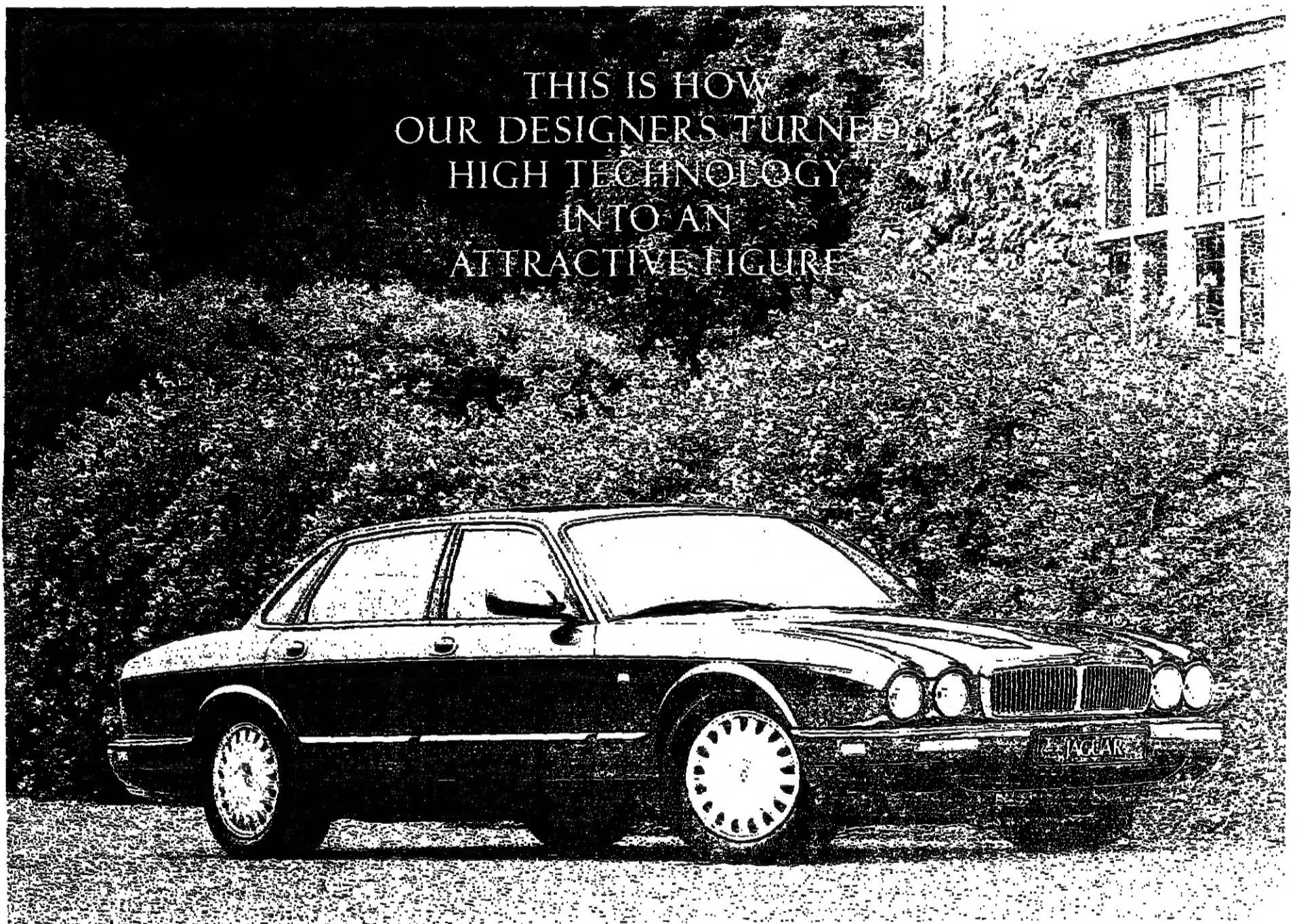
reference. But in Maurice Bell's case, the model saved four hours' operating time at £1,000 an hour as well as making possible an operation that Mr Postlethwaite might not otherwise have attempted.

The modelling technique has been used in Australia and Belgium. Mr Postle-

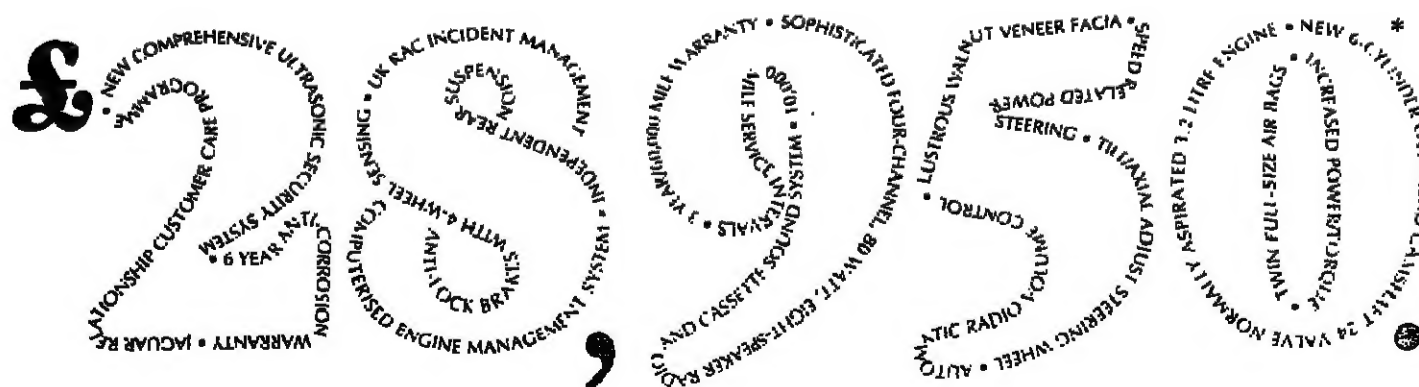
thwaite would like to get models made for many trauma victims at the time of their accident. "In selected cases, it would be very successful," he said.

He believes that if more health authorities were willing to pay for models to be made, hundreds of patients a year could be helped.

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office, covering the whole range of economic and social policies. What would a Major Britain look like in ten years? The proposed policy group's under-secretaries of state will have achieved more than they ever been managed before if they can do 'think boldly and imaginatively'. Mr Major is trying to show that his Government has not run out of steam and ideas, as it has appeared to do over the past year. The odds and history are against him. But the counter-attack has, at least and at last, begun.

PETER RIDDELL

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the Tory party had created the necessity for the Nolan inquiry by corrupting "many of the essential conventions which once made British public administration the envy of the world".

The Government is to make its own written submission to the committee, which will also hear oral evidence from Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, and David Hunt, the Cabinet minister responsible for the Civil Service.

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Economists dispute official figures for cost of rebuilding Grozny after bungled incursion

Chechen war puts West's Moscow loan in jeopardy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S bungled five-week incursion into Chechnia may have cost the Russian Government a multibillion-pound International Monetary Fund loan, without which the country's economy could collapse this year.

An IMF delegation is expected in Moscow today to resume talks on a standby £4-billion loan to help the Russian economy this year. IMF officials did not want to comment publicly on the negotiations, due to resume tomorrow, but economists admit privately that they fear the war has dashed hopes of a tight budget and jeopardised the fund's assistance.

Russian authorities insist that the Chechen operation and the cost of reconstructing

man Economics Minister, said yesterday that he would spell out the West's concerns when he meets Russian officials in St Petersburg next week. "I will make it clear to the Russians that, in the economic realm, we cannot simply sweep their behaviour in Chechnia under the rug," he said.

Experts have issued a warning that, without IMF help, the Russian economy could collapse this year as inflation spirals, the rouble devalues and foreign investment dries up. "Because Russia has long expected strong financial support from the West in 1995, the economy might, in combination with political uncertainty, collapse in its absence," said Jochen Wernuth, the head of the Russian European Export Group, an advisory body that works with the Russian Finance Ministry.

Yesterday Mikhail Zadornov, the head of the budget committee in the Duma, the Lower House of parliament, said the budget would not pass its second reading this week unless the Government came up with some convincing new figures.

Vladimir Panskov, Russia's Finance Minister, said on Sunday that the cost of deploying 40,000 troops and of rebuilding large parts of Grozny, the Chechen capital, would be £1 billion.

"The figures that the Government have produced are completely unrealistic," said Dr Konstantin Remchukov, an economist at Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University. He said that the authorities had underestimated the cost in almost every category from road-building to humanitarian aid. In some cases, such as the costs of clearing up oil spills caused by the fighting, no estimates had even been given.

the breakaway republic's capital will not exceed £1 billion. Russian politicians and economists have estimated, however, that the real figure could be three times as much and will keep rising until Russia wins decisively or reaches a negotiated deal.

The chances of Russia receiving a sympathetic hearing from Western donors have also been diminished by the Republican swing in both houses of the US Congress. The American leadership, and other Western governments, are sensitive to accusations that they have indirectly "subsidised" the war in Chechnia by making huge loans to President Yeltsin.

Günther Rexrodt, the Ger-



Women in Chechnia blocking the route to Russian soldiers who have been sent to a village outside Grozny, the capital, and urging them not to continue their campaign

Russians pound guerrilla retreats in mountains

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN GROZNY

RUSSIAN aircraft have intensified their bombardment of villages in the Caucasus mountains in the past two days, possibly to discourage a future Chechen guerrilla campaign in the area.

Bychik, a hamlet in the mountainous Shatoi district, was struck repeatedly on Sunday. Ten civilians were killed and 15 wounded.

The Russian artillery bombardment of Grozny, the Chechen capital, also continued yesterday, but no concerted Russian move to take or surround the city is in evidence. There is also no sign of a sustained offensive against roads south of Grozny in spite of some Western radio reports. Russian air attacks are widespread, but only occasional and seem random.

A steady stream of Chechen military and civilian casualties is arriving daily at hospitals south of Grozny, with civilians outnumbering Chechen military wounded by about two to one. The dispersal of the Chechen central authorities makes it impossible to fix an overall casualty figure, but evidence from local hospitals indicates that the Chechens are suffering badly.

In the eastern half of Grozny, only one hospital is still functioning, and that only partially. It is cold and dark because there is no power. Abdullah Jibrailov, the doctor on duty, said the hospital now provided only first aid or carried out the most urgent operations. The wounded are then immediately sent to hospitals in other towns to get away from the bombardment.

The keeping of accurate records at the hospital has long since ceased, but Dr Jibrailov estimates that it receives between 12 and 20

wounded a day on average. Of that number, three are brought in dead or die soon after admission. He believes, however, that the hospital sees only a quarter of the wounded in Grozny: most of the injured



are treated on the spot and then taken out of town. At the main district hospital of Urus-Martan, east said they had received 232 wounded since the Russian ground

assault on Grozny began on December 31. They estimated this to be about 10 per cent of the overall number of wounded in Chechnia. Of the 232, 150 were civilians, the rest Chechen fighters.

At a very rough estimate, therefore, the Chechen forces have probably lost 800 or more men wounded and hospitalised since the battle for Grozny began. Perhaps half that number have been killed. This is not a catastrophic figure, but it is very large for a force which numbers only a few thousand.

If there is a new strategy behind the seemingly pointless and obsessive Russian hammering at the presidential palace and centre of Grozny, it may be precisely to draw the Chechens into a battle of attrition in which their forces are gradually worn down by Russian firepower, leaving

Moscow's troops free finally to launch a big ground assault on the Chechen flanks.

From this point of view, it makes sense to draw as many Chechen fighters as possible into the relatively small and well-defined area of Grozny's centre. There they can be continually attacked by Russian artillery, releasing the demoralised Russian infantry from the need to suffer heavy casualties in attacking them.

The numbers of Chechen fighters available for a future guerrilla war will thus also be reduced. The Russian generals may hope that a defeated Chechen nation will more easily accept a Russian-backed puppet government.

This military plan would resemble in some ways the German strategy for the Verdun offensive in 1916. It could take weeks, however, and its success would depend on the

Russian political establishment being willing to continue the battle for that long.

An alternative view, widely held among correspondents who have witnessed Russian military incompetence over the past six weeks, is that the Russian military may have no clear strategy at all and is simply hoping that, with the loss of the Presidential Palace, the Chechens will fight will collapse, leaving Moscow free to offer its own terms for a political settlement.

□ Moscow: Amid fears of an epidemic, Russian rescue teams were headed for Grozny yesterday to help to recover the bodies of dead soldiers from the streets of the shattered Chechen capital. Heavy fighting has meant that many bodies have been left where they fell. Russian health officials insist, however, that the situation is normal. (Reuters)

Women of capital soldier on among dead and drunk

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

A SURPRISING number of civilians continue to live in the centre of Grozny, only a mile from the fighting; in a strange existence they raise chickens and occasionally emerge briefly from their cellars to look for food and water.

A week ago, the cellar at 87 Pionerskaya Street held about 100 people. On Sunday, two-thirds of them said they had taken advantage of occasional lulls in the battle to get out. The rest are settling down to a routine dictated by shellfire. One woman said grimly: "We have learnt the hard way the rules of how to stay alive."

Like most of the remaining civilians in Grozny, many of the people in this cellar are ethnic Russians, but a few are Chechens. Their area, 20 minutes' walk from the heart of the fighting, is under repeated bombardment.

One of their blocks of flats, a few yards away, has been hit dozens of times. Every floor has been blasted, and most of the facade has simply crumbled away. In their cellar,

however, the Russian and Chechen women, encouraged in particular by Nina Alekseyevna, an accountant, have established the rudiments of order and a decent existence.

Where there was previously chaos and endless bickering, the beds are now set out in neat rows, with relatively clean sheets and blankets. A rota has even been arranged for bringing in water and bread, an increasingly dangerous task: near Grozny's former main bus station, two men were blown to pieces as they carried buckets to a well on Sunday.

The contrast between the female order down below and their menfolk in the courtyard above was rather striking. The women had found work to do, and some were obviously keeping calm for the sake of their children. The men, both ethnic Russians and Chechens, with nothing to do but sit still under shellfire, were drunk to a man. One of them, breathing vodka, led the way

to the top floor of a burnt out block of flats for a view of the city centre.

Not far away, another journalist saw a man lying face down in the street. He was not dead, however, just dead drunk. So are most of the non-combatant men on the streets of the capital.

In contrast, the stamina of some of the women is extraordinary. In the Minutka district, Maria, a Russian grandmother, was walking her woolly dog as if it were Sunday morning in a peaceful Moscow suburb. "It's just him and me now," she said.

In the same area, Lydia Leonidovna, another grandmother, a former oil engineer, said she was a frontline veteran of the Second World War and is still living in Grozny with her daughter and grand-daughter. "Of course, my granddaughter is frightened. But I tell her not to worry. I know about these things, and so far we haven't been shelled very badly in this part of town," she said.

Estonians encouraged by fighters' example

FROM MICHAEL TARM IN TALLINN

ESTONIA wants to tear a page out of the Chechen book on how to hold off the Russian Army.

The former Soviet republic has been studying Chechnia's resistance and has been particularly impressed by the guerrillas' hit-and-run tactics and the focus on disrupting Russian supply lines.

"It is encouraging to us that such a small nation is fighting so well against such a big nation," said Margus Kolge, head of the Defence Ministry's security policy department. "It is quite promising because it means maybe Estonia could do the same."

Enn Tupp, Estonia's Defence Minister, said: "We've analysed this war very closely. If the time comes, we'll fight like Chechnia."

With its population of 1.6 million, Estonia is roughly the same size as Chechnia. Since gaining its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, the Baltic nation has said it considers Russia the main potential threat to its security and has made setting up a credible defence a high priority.

Officials here say they know they could never defeat their huge eastern neighbour, but they want to be able to stave off an attack long enough to mobilise support abroad. Some have described this as the "CNN defence": resist just well enough for the international media and governments to take notice.

Mr Tupp faulted the independence-minded Chechens for not courting the Western media sufficiently. "We'd make sure the media paid attention even quicker," he said.

In addition to strong initial resistance, Estonia's defence concept also includes carrying out guerrilla warfare in the country's vast forests. General Aleksandr Einsein, a former US army officer who commands Estonia's 3,500-man army, said he envied Chechnia's fighters their mountains, which are ideally suited for a guerrilla war. (AP)

Zhirinovsky vows to run for president

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VLADIMIR ZHIRINOVSKY, leader of Russia's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, yesterday told voters in the far north of the country that he will run for president in 1996.

Although Mr Zhirinovsky has made his intentions known before, the latest announcement, reported by the Tass news agency, came as Moscow's military action in the rebel republic of Chechnia appears to have seriously weakened President Yeltsin's popularity.

Mr Zhirinovsky has backed Yeltsin's military strategy but said his party is ready for early presidential and parliamentary elections. The next presidential elections are scheduled for June 1996.

If early elections are not held the Liberal Democrats can wait. Mr Zhirinovsky

said. His party won the most votes in 1993 parliamentary elections. He was in the autonomous Komi Republic yesterday to drum up support for the party's candidates before local legislative elections.

Ivan Rybkin, the current Speaker of the Duma, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Nemtsov, a young, market-oriented regional leader, have also been mooted as likely rivals of President Yeltsin in the 1996 elections.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, has also indicated he might run, although he remains deeply unpopular at home.

Under the Russian constitution, President Yeltsin, who is 64 next month and who was elected for a five-year term on June 12, 1991, is free to stand for re-election.



Zhirinovsky, on visit to Komi Republic in north

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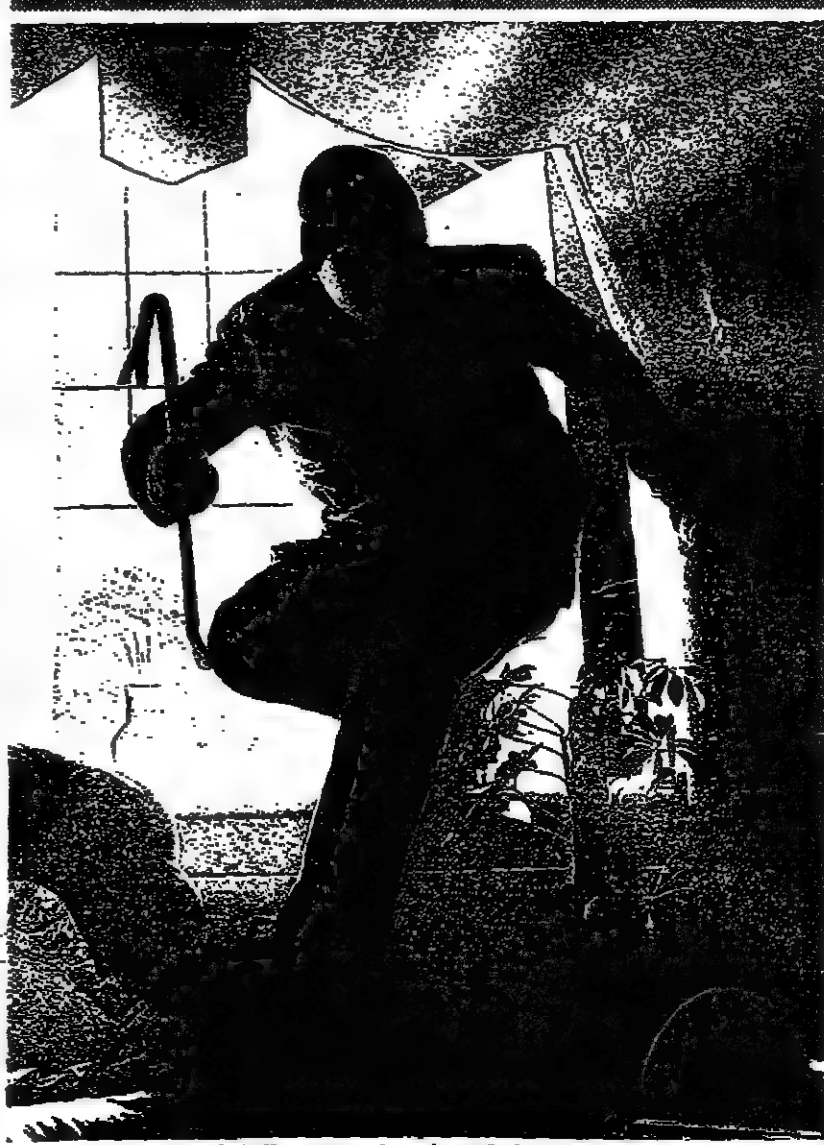
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Migrants escape poverty and state control in Peking 'villages'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

Peking residents call it Zhejiang village, a vast, sprawling community on the southern edge of the capital. It is home to 400,000 people from China's eastern coastal Zhejiang province who, like Dick Whittington, have arrived to escape poverty in their native villages and seek fortunes in the construction boom.

The Zhejiang people, in what is officially the Peking suburb of Dahongmen, are self-contained, with their own clinics, restaurants, beauty parlours, nurseries, markets selling Zhejiang specialties, and hundreds of workshops — some would say sweatshops — producing cheap garments in a warren of unpaved alleys of frozen mud. Like most of the tide of rural people sweeping



driver told me. "But some taxi-drivers don't like to go into Zhejiang village. They're afraid of getting mugged."

Zhejiang does not, however, feel like a favela in Rio or a shanty town on the edge of an

face on the attitude of Peking's natives. "Our relations with them are pretty good," said Zhao Zhan Yi, from near Wenzhou, Zhejiang's capital. He moved here four years ago and runs a small shop while his two sons stitch leather jackets in a nearby workshop. "We can earn much more here than back home," he said. "We've come to make money and better our lives."

There are 25 such satellite towns. Zhejiang is the biggest, and the next largest is Xinjiang village whose residents are Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking Muslim people from western China. Xinjiang people are to be seen changing money and offering spicy mutton kebabs on the streets.

At Anhui village dozens of young women seek work as maids for Peking's new middle class. Peking is the most socially developed area in the country, according to a recent survey in which the capital outscored all other regions in social development, followed by Shanghai and Tianjin, other big cities where similar communities of migrant labourers are springing up.

Recent figures show that there are 3.4 million migrant workers in the capital, graded onto the 10.5 million other residents.

The Government crushes Chinese who call for democracy, but the flow of unemployed peasants from the countryside to the city appears to be outside the control of the central authorities. Fifteen years ago, 80 per cent of the population lived in the countryside, now 65 per cent do. Up to 100 million people have poured into the cities during the past few years while the

Terms of US aid package cause alarm in Mexico

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AS AMERICAN officials stepped up their defence of a proposed multibillion dollar support for the Mexican peso the offer of US assistance is being met with a mixture of anxiety and gratitude.

While Mexicans are relieved at signs of economic recovery they remain deeply disillusioned with the performance of their own Government, and unsure how to react to Washington's offer to guarantee its debts.

"Our true president is Clinton, because he got us out of

guarantees was enough to prompt a three-day rally on the Mexican markets last week.

But the rescue plan could turn sour as details emerge of the strings America has attached to the package, especially if it involves sale of state-owned enterprises such as the oil monopoly, Pemex. Mexican officials say they will only offer future oil export revenue as collateral, and deny talk of a sell-off.

"Mexico is ceasing to be a free and sovereign nation to become a protectorate of the American Union," said Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, a leading opposition politician. "They promised to sell the family jewels, the rest of the china, the candlesticks... to pay what is owed," he said, adding, "in exchange for what?"

"We Mexicans don't want to know, or even ask: we're just glad Clinton made the call and Zedillo's phone was working at the time."

The Clinton Administration must seek the approval of Congress for the loans. US officials spent the weekend reassuring taxpayers that they would not bear the cost of the rescue plan and that a healthy Mexican economy was in Americans' interests.

□ **Leader dies:** Comandante Ramona, 32, a Mayan woman who became one of the two best-known guerrilla leaders in southern Chiapas, has died of cervical cancer in Mexico City. (Reuters)



this hole," said Lorenzo Meyer, a leading Mexican political commentator and critic of the Government.

The three-week decline of the Mexican peso and the local stock market was only halted last week after a phone call from the White House to President Zedillo, in which President Clinton said: "We have a strong interest in the prosperity and stability in Mexico." Talk of up to \$40 billion (£26 billion) in US loan



Sir Wiwa Korowi, the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, helps the Pope to his chair yesterday after his arrival at Jacksons International Airport. The pontiff pleaded for peace on the Catholic island of Bougainville, where rebels have been fighting a secessionist campaign for six years. There was a security alert just before

the Pope arrived, but it was later played down by police. Two hours before he landed, police discovered that two Iranian men had checked out of their hotel and could not be found. Police initially feared that the two might be connected to an alleged assassination plot uncovered in Manila last week at the start of the Pope's

four-nation tour. At one point, officials considered insisting that the pontiff should travel in a covered car instead of his usual open "Popemobile". However, his travel arrangements were unchanged as he made his way along the nine miles of pot-holed roads into Port Moresby, the capital, to celebrate Mass. Chief

Superintendent Denis Samin said the names of the two Iranians had appeared during a routine computer scan. "Immigration alerted us because of the problems in Manila," he said. At least two people were arrested in Manila over the alleged Muslim plot and police are seeking 20 other suspects. (Reuters)

Editor denies contempt in Singapore hearing

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN SINGAPORE

CONTEMPT hearings in the Singapore High Court against the *International Herald Tribune* are expected to be wound up today after a five-hour cross-examination yesterday of Michael Richardson, its Asia Editor, who denied that an article in his newspaper had "scandalised" the Singapore judiciary.

The case centres on whether the article implied that a "compliant" judiciary had been used by the Government to drive opposition politicians into bankruptcy. Chan Sek Keong, the Attorney-General,

noted in earlier hearings that 11 politicians had been sued for defamation by government politicians since the 1970s, and some had ended up bankrupt. Singapore has a long record of taking stern action against journalists and publications that upset it. Mr Richardson has been based in Singapore for 24 years, the last eight of them for the *Tribune*. "I would have been mad to have deliberately courted any kind of risk of putting myself and my newspaper into this kind of situation," he said.

In the face of a threatened lawsuit over two sentences in an article last year, the *Tribune* published an elaborate apology to Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister, for leaving the impression that his son, Lee Hsien Loong, got his job as Deputy Prime Minister solely because of his father.

The *Tribune* also published an extensive apology in the current case, which involves an article written late last year by Christopher Lingle, an American academic employed at the time by the National University of Singapore.

Israeli 'Body Shop' claims trademark

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BODY Shop International, the environmentally conscious British cosmetics company founded by Anita Roddick, has become embroiled in acrimonious trademark litigation in Israel involving claims by a local rival that for many years it failed to open shops in Israel because of the Arab boycott.

At a heated session of the Israeli Patent and Trademarks Court over the use of the name Body Shop, the allegations were strongly denied by Stuart Rose, the managing director of Body Shop International. He claimed that Ms Roddick was a great admirer of Israel who had been so impressed with

her time spent on a kibbutz that she had once considered converting to Judaism.

The court hearing, now adjourned until next month, was one of two under way between the British-based company and its Israeli rival, Dr Fischer Pharmaceuticals Ltd, which owns a firm called Body Shop Cosmetics. It secured a preliminary injunction last month forcing Body Shop International to close its first store, in Tel Aviv.

The British company is fighting the injunction. It is also demanding compensation for alleged misuse of the Body Shop trademark.

Much of the argument has centred on the alleged reluctance of the British company to trade in Israel in the past. Trademark registration in Israel applies only if there is use or intent to use.

Mr Rose denied that Body Shop International had failed to expand into Israel because "trade with the Jews" would have been bad for business elsewhere in the Middle East. □ Kidnap fear: Israeli security forces were last night checking unconfirmed rumours that another young Israeli soldier had been kidnapped by Islamic militants.



Roddick considered conversion to Judaism

Murder hunt after Sydney fire

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

POLICE in Australia were last night investigating what they described as one of the country's worst cases of mass murder.

Eight people were killed at the weekend in a domestic fire in the Sydney suburb of Liverpool. The victims — four women, three children and a 17-year-old youth who all belonged to the same family —

were staying in a third-floor flat when a fireball engulfed the stairwell and their home. Two bodies were found on the balcony and a third victim died while trying to escape down the stairs.

The fire, among the most horrific murders Australia has known, was almost certainly started deliberately, with an accelerant or fuel

poured on to stairs to the flat. Julio Alonso, who lives next door, said he was woken by screams at about 3.30 am. "Then they had no more chance to scream and I heard cracking glass as the fire took hold," he said.

Detectives have not yet established a motive. The devastation attracted hundreds of ghoulish onlookers.

Clinton awakes to unwelcome Newt testament

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT CLINTON will awake this morning to a special delivery which will serve to confirm that President though he may be, he is far from being America's man of the moment.

The package that is arriving at the White House contains just one of a trio of new publications about Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, whose every comment now appears worthy of chronicling. Hot on the heels of the Speaker's own *Contract With America*, which is fast rising in the bestseller lists throughout the coun-

try, comes *NewtWit: The Wit & Wisdom of Newt Gingrich* and *NEWTimes*, the pocket guide. The third volume is *Quotations from Speaker Newt: The Little Red, White and Blue Book of the Republican Revolution*.

NewtWit is compiled by Tom Connor and is culled from hundreds of newspapers, magazines and television appearances. It presents 243 of the pithiest of Mr Gingrich's statements, including such immortal lines as: "George Bush is the best all-around politician I have ever seen."

Connor, who has made a name for himself in America by producing various collections of parody, is the first to admit that his book's title

provides several possibilities for misinterpretation. Pocket Books, meanwhile, using similar sources for its material, has produced a volume in which each page offers a quote on a particular topic. E, for example, is for Evil: "People like me are what stand between us and Auschwitz. I see evil around me every day."

But it is the third and most serious of the three books that will be included in the White House mail-bag today. It will simultaneously be delivered to both houses of Congress.

Its authors, Peter and Amy Bernstein, have written an overview of the Gingrich career and hope it will appear in equal measure to both his friends and enemies in Washington.

"One of the greatest intellectual failures of the welfare state," according to one of the *Quotations from Speaker Newt*, "is the penchant for sacrifice, so long as the only people being asked to sacrifice are working, tax-paying Americans."

The First Family may be able to lose this volume among the hundreds of other papers which squirrel themselves into the White House every day. But the President is likely to find it more difficult to avoid further reminders of his nemesis by turning in to the Washington airwaves. "Speaker of the House," a catchy ditty set to the tune of "Leader of the Pack", is being played monotonously often.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abortion opponent discusses 'hit-list'

New York: A pro-life activist from Mississippi has said that killing Supreme Court judges in America would be justifiable and that even President Clinton is under threat for supporting abortion (Tom Rhodes writes).

Roy McMillan, head of the Christian Action Group in Jackson, was asked in a TV interview whether it would be justifiable to kill the President. "I think he's probably in harm's way by endorsing the killing [abortion]," he said. "It would probably be to me more justifiable to assassinate Supreme Court judges."

NBC erased this segment from the programme, which was shown on December 28.

Volcano alert

Bogotá: Melting snow from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano, which was the site of Colombia's worst natural disaster, caused a river to swell, prompting the evacuation of thousands of people. (AP)

Gang jailed

Dubai: Twenty-three drunken youths who kidnapped and tried to gang-rape a woman in the United Arab Emirates have been jailed for between six and ten years, it was reported. (Reuters)

Milo man dies

Sydney: Thomas Mayne, 94, an Australian chemist who 60 years ago created the recipe for Milo, the chocolate-malt drink powder popular throughout Southeast Asia, has died. (Reuters)

Gone fishing

Suva: A Fijian fisherman on the island of Vanua Levu choked to death when he tried to kill his catch in the traditional way by biting its head off, police here said. (Reuters)

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If you suffer from eczema, you should know about a new book, *The Complete Eczema Handbook*. This book contains all the latest up to date information on eczema problems and how to handle them, in particular tips on preventing and controlling outbreaks. There are many different types of eczema, even though the symptoms can be identical such as red spots, skin dryness, scaling, soreness, frequent irritation or itching of the affected areas and possibly blisters. What's more, one kind of eczema may change over time to a different one. *The Complete Eczema Handbook* identifies the different types of eczema, shows how the risk from everyday items such as cosmetics, clothing and jewelry can be minimised and what can be done about the domestic causes such as household mite, household cleaning products and air pollution. There are also simple-to-use methods for identifying dietary causes of eczema as well as special ways to control stress induced outbreaks. Alternative therapies such as homeopathy, acupuncture, osteopathy, naturopathy, hypnosis and hypnotherapy are also covered, together with useful contact addresses. Many people are putting up with troublesome eczema symptoms because they are unaware of new treatments and the welcome relief that is now available. *The Complete Eczema Handbook* now, direct from the publisher for only £9.95 which includes postage and packaging.

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Santer calls crisis talks to avert MEPs' veto on new commission

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, the President-designate of the European Commission, yesterday called his future colleagues to an emergency meeting in Strasbourg to decide whether to offer any concessions to the European Parliament, which last week threatened to veto the appointment of the new European Commission at a vote tomorrow.

It was expected that Mr Santer would give some ground over a series of rules covering the relationship between the Commission and the Parliament, but that he would resist pressure from MEPs to change some of the Commission's portfolios. Mr Santer will announce the outcome of the discussions in a speech to the parliament today.

The MEPs requested a modest reshuffle of portfolios after they found fault with five out of the 20 commissioners at a series of confirmation hearings earlier this month. The

lack of political skill. Mr Santer faces the dilemma of either conceding too much, which would be seen as undermining his authority, or conceding too little, in which case he could risk a parliamentary veto, which would throw the EU into a constitutional crisis. The strategists in the European Parliament expect at least some recognition of their criticisms.

Parliamentary leaders said privately that they expect a "yes" vote tomorrow, an acknowledgement that took some of the heat out of their threats. Parliamentary solidarity was undermined further when the 62 British Labour MEPs announced publicly last week that they will not vote against Mr Santer's commission under any circumstances.

After the row over *The Guardian* advertisement in support of Clause Four in the Labour Party's constitution, this amounted to their second gaffe of the week, as it weakened the negotiating position of Pauline Green, the leader of the 221-strong Socialist group in the parliament.

Mr Santer spent much of his weekend on the telephone with the party leaders in detailed negotiations to find a face-saving formula capable of satisfying both sides. The issue where compromise was considered most likely is the so-called Code of Conduct, an agreement between the commission and parliament, which includes three key demands.

Firstly, parliament wants to have equal access with the Council of Ministers to commission documents; it wants access also to confidential information; and, most controversially, it wants a commitment by Mr Santer not to proceed with legislation if it is rejected by parliament with an absolute majority. That would give parliament an effective right of veto on all legislation, which it does not have under the Maastricht treaty.

Mr Santer fears that any material concessions over the commission's portfolios would destroy the delicate balance he attempted to strike when he allocated them last year. The parliament wants him to strip Mr Flynn of the equal rights portfolio.

Bernard Levin, page 16



Lamberto Dini, Italy's Prime Minister-designate and his second wife, Donatella, who is a business tycoon and millionairess in her own right

Italian leader in waiting, famed for icy negotiating skills, must forge a truce

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

Financial markets soared yesterday as Lamberto Dini, appointed Prime Minister-designate by President Scalfaro last Friday, tried to put together Italy's 54th postwar Government.

Signor Dini, 63, the son of a Florentine grocer, is a leading Italian expert on international finance and was Treasury Minister in the outgoing Government headed by Silvio Berlusconi. He has indicated that he may present his proposed Cabinet line-up to Signor Scalfaro as early as today, but he appeared last night to be struggling to meet the terms of his brief.

The President instructed him on Sunday to form a "government of trust" to introduce vital economic and institutional reforms and warned him that his ministers should be technical experts independent of the main political parties. His team, he was told, should also not be dominated by sympathisers with Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia and its allies in the neo-Fascist-led National Alliance. Signor Scalfaro is concerned that another hard-right administration would fail a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Despite Signor Dini's difficulties, the lira rose yesterday to 1042.80 against the mark

and the Milan stock market jumped 4.5 per cent amid optimism that he will be able to form a stable government.

As it happens, many ordinary Italians find Signor Dini less attractive than his wife Donatella, 50, who is a millionairess and a captain of industry with considerable business interests in Costa Rica. The couple were married in 1985 after both lost their first spouses.

Signora Dini's first husband, Renzo Zingone, was 30 years older than her. He died in 1981, and she took over his family business, turning it into a multinational company. The marriage produced two children, Cesare and Maria.

Signor Dini has a daughter, Paola, from his first marriage. He worked his way through Florence University while helping his father run his grocery store in the Via della Porcellana in medieval Florence. He graduated in economics in 1955 and won scholarships for post-graduate study in America in 1959. He joined the International Monetary Fund as an economist and remained with it for 20 years, becoming a central director for African affairs in 1975 and making several journeys to Third World countries

in financial difficulties. He earned a reputation as a courteous but icy cold negotiator.

Some of his colleagues recall a row he had with Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the late despot dictator of the Central African Republic, who threatened to arrest him and



Berlusconi: watered down pension reforms

him to a seat on the IMF executive committee to represent the European Mediterranean countries. He returned to Italy in 1979 as director-general of the Bank of Italy, the central bank. He was in effect number two to Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the governor, who went on to become Prime Minister before Signor Berlusconi.

Signor Dini's fortunes improved when Signor Berlusconi won last March's election and appointed him Treasury Minister to bring experience to his Cabinet. Last month Signor Dini watched as the media tycoon watered down his ambitious plan to reform the generous state pension

system, which is a main cause of the country's huge government spending deficit. Signor Berlusconi backed down to avoid a confrontation with the trade unions and Signor Dini is expected to try to introduce a rigorous mini-budget as his first priority if he succeeds in forming a government with a workable majority.

Il Messaggero, the Rome newspaper, has predicted that he will also devote himself to settling old scores with enemies at the Bank of Italy and is unlikely willingly to give up the reins of power. Those who know him foresee that he will not for anything in the world accept staying at the Palazzo Chigi even a day less than his former superior, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. It said.

Signor Dini favours a worldlier lifestyle than Signor Ciampi, who leads an almost monastic existence. He likes to relax by the swimming pool on the roof of his luxury penthouse flat in Rome and to enjoy the smart parties that his wife throws in Rome and San José, the Costa Rican capital. Among guests in the past have been Signor Andreotti, an old friend of Signora Dini.

Leading article, page 17

WORLD SUMMARY

Avalanche kills five in Iceland village

Reykjavik: At least five people were killed and ten others were missing after an avalanche smashed into an isolated fishing village in north-western Iceland early yesterday.

The Icelandic National Civil Defence, which is in charge of the rescue operation, said 11 people, some of them injured, had been rescued from houses in the remote village of Sudavik after a wall of snow and ice hit it at 6.30am. Ten others, some of them children, were still missing and hopes for their survival under tonnes of snow were fading, rescuers said. (Reuters)

Royal protester sent to jail

Nicosia: A Greek Cypriot doctor who smashed the windscreen of the Queen's Rolls-Royce while she was at a Commonwealth summit in Cyprus last year was jailed for four months yesterday for malicious damage (Michael Theodorou writes).

Haris Aristidou, 31, a campaigner against Britain's military presence in Cyprus, broke the windscreen with handcoffs after being arrested during protests. He refused to accept the charges. "It was not malicious damage. It was damage with good intent, and I would do it again if I had the opportunity," he told Limassol district court.

Turks censor Kurd reports

Ankara: Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish newspaper hit the streets yesterday doped with blank spaces after being censored by authorities for its reporting of the Kurdish guerrilla war in the southeast of the country. Two stories on the front page of the daily *Özgür Ülke* were blanked out and some papers were seized under a court order. (Reuters)

Rose bush eater hungry for fame

Delhi: An Indian youth made his 85th attempt to secure a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records by eating two rose bushes in Coimbatore, the Press Trust of India said.

The youth, known only as Parthasarthy, also plans to eat 625 chillies in yet another record-setting attempt, the agency said. His unsuccessful tries for Guinness fame include swallowing 36 raw eggs in one go and pushing a mustard seed backwards with his nose for a quarter of a mile. (AFP)

Poles reflect on mixed blessing of Warsaw liberation

BY ROGER ROYCE

RED and white carnations are to be laid today at the large Soviet war memorial on the banks of the Vistula, but the 50th anniversary of the Red Army's liberation of Warsaw will not be a day of great celebration. Rather, January 17, 1945, marked the beginning of more than four decades of communist rule.

The entry into Warsaw of Marshal Zhukov's men and the installation of a "provisional government of the Polish Republic" was a supremely political event. Soviet troops had lingered for months on the other side of the river while the Germans crushed the Warsaw uprising led by the anti-communist Polish Home Army during the summer of 1944. By the time Marshal Zhukov's troops crossed the river, the Home Army had been disbanded and its leaders arrested by Soviet security forces.

The rapid advance of Soviet

troops after the liberation of Warsaw paved the way, in the words of Oskar Halecki, the Polish historian, for the "communist solution of the Polish problem which made Poland, on whose conquest the control of all East Central Europe depended, the open gateway for communist expansion towards the West".

The people of Warsaw were none the less relieved to see the Soviet troops. Since the failure of the uprising, German commando units had been obeying Hitler's order to raze the city. Dynamite charges were put under buildings, flame-thrower units scorched blocks of flats and bulldozers crushed monuments. It was a bloody, pointless revenge by a losing army.

The battle for Warsaw began on January 14 with a 25-minute artillery bombardment by the Russians. Marshal Zhukov's frontline commander was General Vassili



Poles on Warsaw's grim streets soon after its liberation

Chuikov, hero of Stalingrad. He ordered the field kitchen to be brought to the front line because nobody knew how much food there was in the Polish capital. After the short bombardment, assault battalions moved across the narrow

bridgehead to the south of the city; within the day about half a million men and more than 1,000 tanks were on the move. By the second day, a Soviet tank army had run through the crumbling German defences to the south of Warsaw.

By January 16, the Russians had Warsaw in a noose: the Germans fled after a last bout of shooting, hanging and arson. The Russians entered an urban wasteland smelling of burning rubber and flesh. On January 18, the Russian conquerors were joined by Polish units formed in the Soviet Union for a victory parade down Jerusalem Avenue in the city centre.

Stalin made the most of the warm Polish reception for his troops in both Warsaw and Lodz — liberated by General Chuikov soon afterwards — and started bargaining in Yalta. "Now there is goodwill towards Russia," he told Winston Churchill. "It is only natural that the Polish people should be delighted to see the Germans flee their country and to feel themselves liberated. My impression is that the Poles consider this a great historic holiday."

Many Poles, however, came to regard the liberation as a new form of enslavement and

were bitter about what they regarded as a Western betrayal at Yalta. Soviet intentions were plain enough, and they were anything but fraternal.

In an indiscreet remark at a British Embassy reception, Marshal Zhukov commented that Poles were a persistent nuisance who "should be swatted like flies". Professor Halecki wrote: "Far from being a liberation of Poland, a terrible threat to Europe had been created. The Western leaders did not realise that the Red Army were no longer needed to defeat Germany."

□ Bombing anniversary: The Mayor and civic elders of Magdeburg yesterday held a service to mark the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the city by British and Canadian planes, in which about 16,000 people died.

In east Berlin, up to 80,000 people marched in honour of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, two communists murdered in 1919 for trying to overthrow the Government.

Sin and Forgiveness

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES "Things that make people sin are bound to happen, but how terrible for the one who makes them happen! It would be better for him if a large millstone were tied around his neck and he were thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch what you do! If your brother sins rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in one day, and each time he comes to you saying 'I repent' you must forgive him" Luke ch.17 v 1-4

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Star Trek's new crew set off into politically correct space

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A NEW series of *Star Trek* blasted off in America last night with a woman at the helm and a black Vulcan aboard, and headed into the politically correct future of the 24th century.

The actress, Kate Mulgrew, boldly went where no woman had gone before as Captain Kathryn Janeway, the first female to command a Starship since the world's most popular television show first appeared in 1966. Her crew included a polymorphous black Vulcan played by Tim Russ, and spent the first episode making peace with inter-Galactic outlaws led by a Native American rebel whose spiritual guide is a timber wolf. *Star Trek: Voyager* is the fourth

incarnation of the television show, which is seen in more than 100 countries, but the first version made since the death of its creator, Gene Roddenberry. Roddenberry always wanted to give women a more prominent place in the *Star Trek*, but the show's producers feared that that would not sit well with its target audience of young males.

Roddenberry's first pilot featured his wife as a cool second-in-command who would take control when the captain was away. But television executives told him to rewrite her role as the subservient Nurse Chapel.

Feminists criticised the earlier series for space-age sexism, complaining that the female character Uhura never led landing parties and that alien priestesses always fell for Captain

Kirk after just one kiss. The new series comes closer to Roddenberry's ideal of a multi-cultural galaxy. After all, the much-loved Spock, played by Leonard Nimoy, was a human-Vulcan cross-breed.

Ms Mulgrew plays her part with her hair drawn back in a no-nonsense manner and the unmistakable authority of a commanding officer. And she has strong opinions about her role.

"We do not want a bunch, screaming, tough broad," she said in a recent interview. "We want an excellent human being running this ship, one who's sexy, alive, and who is completely in control of what she's doing on that ship."

In the two-hour pilot episode, Captain Janeway is asked at one point if she should be addressed as "sir" or

"ma'am". "Captain will do nicely", she replies. The plot was something of a morality play about the assimilation of alien cultures.

Blown 70,000 light years off course by a "coherent tetraon beam", Captain Janeway and her crew are forced to co-operate with the rebel Maquis to survive. As the two groups make their way back across the galaxy in future episodes, the producers promise, Captain Janeway will seek spiritual guidance from Chakotay, the Native American leader of the Maquis.

"The messages in *Voyager* are sometimes underlined a bit too heavily," concluded John O'Connor, the television critic of *The New York Times*, "but the Roddenberry legacy of futuristic optimism is given yet another promising life-off."



Nimoy played Vulcan cross-breed Mr Spock

Dr Thomas Stuttford explains how some people came to be given blood contaminated with hepatitis C — and what is being done for them

Gaps in the ABC of blood screening

ABOUT five years ago a young man had his car stolen. Later, by chance, the owner spotted it parked by a building site in central London: he accosted the thief, who drew a knife and stabbed him through the abdomen. Bleeding profusely, he was taken to casualty in the nick of time. Resuscitated by transfusions, and repaired by surgeons, he made a good recovery marred only by some slight post-operative jaundice and a recurrent low-grade fever. Recently he has been complaining of ill health and chronic tiredness; his liver function tests are abnormal and his blood tests show that he has been infected by hepatitis C.

In the period when blood could be screened for hepatitis A and B, but not for hepatitis C, the latter accounted for

the majority of cases of post-transfusion hepatitis, and it may well be that it was also responsible for many of the cases of inexplicable chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and cancer of the liver.

The initial symptoms of hepatitis C are mild, but the sting of the disease lies in its tail — 50 to 80 per cent of patients who catch it fail to make a full recovery and are likely to develop a chronic infection. In most cases this infection is benign, and is very often free of all discernible symptoms, but in at least 20 per cent of those affected the disease will lead to

chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver and, in some cases, malignant disease.

Treatment with interferon will eradicate hepatitis C in about 35 to 45 per cent of carefully selected cases; but interferon can have unpleasant side effects and is not suitable for every patient. Those in whom eradication fails may well become chronic carriers, and even if they are asymptomatic they will remain capable of infecting others with a potentially deadly virus. In



the Victorian era before the days of antibiotics doctors, patients and novelists were not unreasonably obsessed by the carrier state. To be a carrier of any disease, capable of causing sickness and death while remaining healthy, can induce in sensitive people a great sense of guilt. In chronic hepatitis C there is the added burden of never knowing if the condition is likely to deteriorate and lead to irreversible liver damage.

Now the Government has agreed to make efforts to trace all patients who might have been given blood contaminated by hepatitis C after it could first be detected, but before testing became standard. Controversy surrounds the period between 1989, when the first screening tests for hepatitis C were being developed in America, and 1991, when they became routinely established. The initial test could detect hepatitis C only several months after the blood had first become infectious, and the numbers of false positive and false negative results

were very high. When all factors were taken into account the predictive value of the test was only 50 per cent, and the US Food and Drug Administration did not approve it until 1990. In Britain three different and better tests were approved and introduced in 1991; since then they have been further improved, and now give a 90 per cent predictive value.

Professor Arie Zuckerman, Dean of the Royal Free School of Medicine, said yesterday: "There were very sound reasons for the delay in introduction of routine screening. Only the improved tests introduced in 1991 had the sensitivity and specificity which is needed. These screening tests are now, of course, essential for all blood which is going to be used for transfusion."

Toddler who won against the odds

Jeremy Laurance on the meningitis that nearly killed Gary Pegler

The disease all parents dread their children catching, and all doctors fear misdiagnosing, is at its worst from October until March. Meningitis can attack anyone, however fit, of any age, although children are most susceptible. Last year it claimed 180 lives.

So far this year at least four children have succumbed, including five-year-old Emma Harris, who was buried earlier this month, and her classmate, Alexandra Yates, also aged five. But not all victims die. One who survived was Gary Pegler.

Now a normal, boisterous toddler, Gary has been to the brink of death. His recovery was long, slow and fraught with difficulty. His story illustrates the devastating speed with which the disease strikes and the struggle victims have to regain their health.

On March 22 last year Gary

awoke slightly off colour. He was pale and listless all day, and in the evening his parents, Stephen and Toni Pegler, made up a bed in the living room to keep an eye on him. By 10pm big purple blotches were appearing on Gary's face. The GP was called and he immediately suspected bacterial meningitis. He gave Gary an injection of antibiotics and called an ambulance.

At the James Paget Hospital in Great Yarmouth staff confirmed the diagnosis but were alarmed by the rash, a sign that the tiny blood vessels under the skin were beginning to break down. It is a symptom of septicaemia, a complication of meningococcal meningitis. They placed Gary on a ventilator, and at 3am they warned his parents that he might not survive the night.

By dawn Gary's condition had deteriorated but he was still hanging on. The staff decided to refer him to St Mary's Hospital in London, whose specialist team had the best chance of saving him. However, his condition was so unstable they considered he would not survive the 100-mile trip by road.

That afternoon Dr Parviz Habibi, a consultant in intensive care and leader of the Rapid Response team at St Mary's, contacted the RAF helicopter to transport him to the capital.



Gary Pegler and his parents after returning from hospital. They were warned by doctors that their son might not survive the night

"The first 48 hours are crucial to survival, but often we get to the patient late because the disease is rarely diagnosed quickly," says Dr Habibi. "It is a case of sloop and scoop, but you must have expert staff and the right equipment. There is plenty of evidence to show that inpatient transport leads to increased problems."

Wrapped in a heat-saving silver blanket and connected to a ventilator, Gary had only his purple face visible as he was wheeled to the helicopter. It landed in Regent's Park at 9.30pm where a waiting ambulance rushed the team to St Mary's.

There was no room in the helicopter for Mr and Mrs Pegler, who followed by road. They stopped in a service station near the M1 to call Dr Habibi on his mobile phone to check whether their son had survived the journey. "That was one of the worst moments," Toni says.

By the time they arrived, Gary was in intensive care. For the second night running Stephen and Toni were warned that his chances of lasting the night were no better than 50 per cent.

Massive doses of antibiotics had already disposed of the meningococcal bacteria that cause the disease but the

damage had already been done. "He was in septic shock," says Dr Habibi. "His heart had failed, his lungs were flooding and his kidneys had failed. He required round-the-clock nursing."

His condition was still critical ten days later, but he had beaten the odds. "It was a case of one step forward and two back," says Toni. "All they could do was try to keep him stable while he cured himself."

Complications arose in the second week with the blood-clotting process. "It is known as DIC — Death is Coming."

says Dr Habibi. "It actually stands for Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation and it means his capillaries were clotting off and he was bleeding everywhere."

At one point his right hand became so purple and swollen that the pulse disappeared. The same happened to his nose, and gangrene was feared. A surgeon was called to advise on amputation but he decided against it.

By April 17, more than three weeks after he was admitted, Gary was sitting up in bed eating and drinking. But he was still too weak to get out of bed and was still on kidney dialysis. On April 23, a month

and a day after the disease struck, Gary had his first day out, at London Zoo. "It was wonderful for him to get away from people in uniforms," says Toni. "The team at St Mary's were absolutely brilliant. I don't know why he survived. Maybe he was just stubborn."

Two days later they took Gary home. The Rapid Response Team at St Mary's has dealt with more than 400 cases since its launch in June 1992. It depends on charitable support. Stephen and Toni Pegler have launched the Gary Pegler Appeal to raise funds for a £60,000 kidney machine for St Mary's. Donations may be sent to the appeal, c/o Midland Bank, Hall Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Price of a perfect smile

£20,000 will buy you a new set of implanted teeth

AMID THE furor caused by Martin Amis's £500,000 publishing deal it passed almost without comment that he has already spent £20,000 of it on cosmetic dental work.

The news that Elizabeth Taylor's husband, Larry Fortensky, is to spend £30,000 on his teeth comes as less of a surprise. But Amis is an English intellectual. Should he not be above such superficial things?

This is the new, acceptable face of cosmetic surgery. Amis would never have an eye-lift or a tummy-tuck; it would not chime with the *enfant terrible* image demanded by his literary demi-monde. But he, like many dentally challenged Britons, has realised that a tooth-job can make all the difference to an ageing face.

"Suddenly everyone is talking about cosmetic dentistry," says Peter Gordon, Wimpole Street dentist and adviser to the British Dental Association. "It isn't a term I like because it implies some speciality outside the scope of conventional dentistry. There is no special diploma — it is just one side of the work carried out by dentists."

Amis, who was treated in America, is rumoured to have had his molars replaced, and treatment as expensive as his.



Before and after: simulation of cosmetic work by Dentics

according to Mr Gordon, probably involved implants.

"That is a process where a titanium root is screwed into the jaw bone and left to settle for six months. Then a new tooth, usually gold, is attached to the root, and built up with porcelain like a normal crown. It costs about £1,000 per tooth so a full set of molars might well cost around £20,000."

Other treatments include the closing of gaps and correcting crooked teeth to present a straight face to the world. "I am wary of doing work that is not clinically necessary," Mr Gordon says, "because work like this, unlike normal crowns and fillings, is usually irreversible. You don't want to jeopardise a perfectly healthy tooth."

MR GORDON remains baffled, however, that Amis went to America to get his teeth done. "Since the ban on dentists' advertising was lifted, you can find hundreds in *Yellow Pages* offering cosmetic work," he says.

"At somewhere like Dentics, in the King's Road, there is a boutique atmosphere. Their attitude is that if people take so much trouble over their hair, why not drop in and have their teeth sorted out as well?"

GILES COREN

How low can you go?

Low blood pressure is linked to tiredness and dizziness. Does it matter? Dr Simon Wessely reports

A 30-year-old woman living in Britain goes to her doctor complaining of feeling tired and faint. The doctor examines her, and finds that her blood pressure is a little on the low side, with a systolic reading of 100mm Hg. The doctor is likely to say something along the lines of "at least that is one thing you don't have to worry about". The conversation shifts to a discussion of possible sources of stress in her life as an explanation for why she feels tired all the time.

If the same consultation took place in Germany, the script might be very different. The doctor would now conclude that her blood pressure was too low, and that this was the cause of her symptoms. The doctor might recommend a high salt diet, or give a prescription for a low dose of digitalis or ergotamine.

The Office of Health Economics, which records the 20 most frequent diagnoses and the 20 most frequent drugs used by general practitioners across the European Union, reports that in Germany the commonest recorded diagnosis of all is "myocardial insufficiency" — another term for low blood pressure.

Cardiac drugs such as digoxin that are used to treat this are the second commonest prescription. No fewer than 85 different medicines are available on prescription in Germany to increase blood pressure, at an estimated cost of £120 million annually. Neither the diagnosis nor any of these drugs figure in the top 20 for Britain.

Many symptoms we consider to be of psychological origin are, in Germany, viewed as the result of low blood pressure, a concept unknown in Britain and labelled a "non disease" in America. The same

blood pressures that German doctors try to elevate, we regard as highly desirable. In consequence most British doctors view the tendency of German doctors to treat symptoms such as tiredness and dizziness with measures to elevate blood pressure as ineffective and rather amusing — a consultant quoted in a letter to *The Lancet* called hypotension a "continental medical myth" and another said that the drugs used by German doctors to treat people feeling off-colour were "rather stupid".

Back in 1990, I decided to carry out a study that would lay to rest what I also viewed as these quaint German theories. Together with colleagues at the University of Cambridge, I studied the relationship between low blood pressure and symptoms in a large British population sample, known as the Health and Lifestyle Survey.

The first set of results was surprising — low blood pressure that ought to have had no effect on symptoms was indeed associated with fatigue and dizziness, although nothing else. However, I confidently expected that this was due either to people taking drugs that both lowered blood pressure and caused fatigue, or to those with a general lack of exercise having both increased

fatigue and poor muscle tone.

Even when taking account of smoking, body mass, alcohol, psychological distress and poor sleep, the link refused to disappear. When the results were reported in the *British Medical Journal* we were forced to conclude that a consistent relationship existed between common symptoms such as tiredness and dizziness and blood pressures that we had been taught were not only normal, but a good thing.

What could the explanation be? Perhaps there is some deficit in the autoregulatory system which protects the blood supply to the brain from both low and high blood pressure, but this is just speculation. Or perhaps both fatigue and low blood pressure could result from a third, unidentified factor.

Researchers led by Professor Michael Marmot at University College London suggest that this factor might be depression, although it still needs to be explained why depression would lower blood pressure.

Should we now start treating low blood pressure? At the moment, no. There is no dispute that low blood pressure protects against strokes and heart attacks. Furthermore, while lowering blood

pressure in those with high values is crucial, there is no evidence at all to suggest that raising blood pressure in those with low values does any good. Low systolic blood pressure is good for longevity, but perhaps symptoms such as fatigue are the price.

There is a moral to this story. When, as is inevitable, closer ties with the rest of Europe lead to a greater exposure to unfamiliar and apparently eccentric ideas about the causes and cures of sickness, we must be more careful before dismissing these ideas out of hand. The possibility that low blood pressure does cause certain symptoms is now receiving serious attention in Britain. In a final twist, figures released by the German Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security show that the frequency of the diagnosis of low blood pressure is falling there.

Dr Simon Wessely is senior lecturer in psychological medicine at the Maudsley Hospital, London.

Prostate Problems?

If you suffer prostate problems such as getting up nights to urinate... urgency and frequency... delay and dribbling... pain and discomfort you should know about a new book, *Your Prostate: What Every Man Over 40 Needs To Know Now!* The book contains the latest up-to-date information on the prostate — how it functions, what can go wrong, how it can best be treated, and how to protect yourself from prostate problems. The book gives you specific facts on the prostate — how it functions, what can go wrong, how it can best be treated, and how to protect yourself from prostate problems. The book gives you specific facts on the prostate — how it functions, what can go wrong, how it can best be treated, and how to protect yourself from prostate problems.

tate problems and how they were able to overcome their problems. Many men are putting up with troublesome Prostate symptoms because they are unaware of new treatments and the well-known relief that is now available. Get all the facts. *Your Prostate: What Every Man Over 40 Needs To Know Now* costs just \$9.95 (post paid). To receive your copy, send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) to: Carrell plc, Dept. PH4, Alresford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You can return your copy for a full refund at any time within the next three months.

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A MEETING OF MINDS

Newt's iron lady on her mettle

Martin Fletcher meets one of the new Republican storm-troopers, who is not content to cut down a bloated Congress

Enid Greene Waldholz, the new Republican congresswoman from Salt Lake City, is causing terrible problems on Capitol Hill. She is demanding that her \$133,600 (\$87,000) salary be cut to \$89,000 (\$58,000). She is insisting on paying for her own healthcare. She refuses to be part of the excessively generous congressional pension scheme, and has employed only 14 staff, eight fewer than her complement.

Capitol Hill's time-serving bureaucrats protest that they cannot accommodate such idiosyncrasy, but Mrs Waldholz is absolutely determined to get her way. "There is a sickness in this city," she says as she sits in her still-unfurnished office suite. She is outraged at how she is treated on if she is wearing her member's badge and ignored if she is not. She is appalled at the way a bell rings to hold up the traffic when she drives out of Congress's underground car park. She insists on being called "Enid", not "Congresswoman", and says she can quite understand how past congressmen acquired vastly inflated senses of their own importance.

Mrs Waldholz's ambitions are not confined to tearing down the old "Imperial Congress". She aims to transform America too. Though she had never held political office before, she decided to run for Congress when she was an aide to Utah's governor and was being driven to distraction by Washington's endless silly directives. Her vision is of a land "where people have the opportunity to direct their own lives" and "a chance to do whatever they want to do without government getting in their way". Mrs Waldholz not only signed the "Contract with America", Newt Gingrich's prescription for rolling back Big Government, last autumn. She has also co-sponsored nine of its ten bills since being sworn in two weeks ago, and carries a copy around in her handbag like a Bible.

Mr Gingrich, who visited Salt Lake City to campaign for Mrs Waldholz last October, has already singled her out as especially

promising material. He has made her the first Republican freshman member of the powerful House Rules committee in 80 years. The committee determines what legislation reaches the full House, and when, so she is ideally positioned to help to fulfil Mr Gingrich's promise of votes within 100 days on all ten Contract Bills.

Mrs Waldholz, a newly married 36-year-old lawyer, laughs a lot, wears glasses and is a little dumpy, but her mild appearance is deceptive. She is a self-proclaimed "revolutionary", armed with an unshakeable belief in her cause. She is an archetypal member of the

Republican freshman class of 1994, the shock troops of the Gingrich army.

The class has 73 members including 30 businessmen, 23 lawyers, a couple of recent football stars, an obstetrician, an auctioneer, a man who was once homeless and even a former pop singer, Sonny Bono. The most remarkable thing about it is that the majority, such as Mrs Waldholz, have never before held public office.

They are overwhelmingly white and middle-class. They almost all ran as angry "outsiders", fulminating against a bloated and arrogant Congress, and they are determined to cut Washington down to size.

They promise to balance the federal budget without raising taxes, a goal that will require hundreds of billions of dollars in spending cuts. Mrs Waldholz argues that almost every federal programme except social security can be "improved", reduced or eliminated. They pledge to link by law how long congressmen may serve. They are bent on returning power to the states, and dismantling a welfare system that they claim has destroyed the independence of those it was meant to help.

Mrs Waldholz and her fellow freshmen cringe when labelled "politicians", a term they regard as pejorative. They regard themselves as private citizens on "temporary assignment" in Washington. They are unusually young, with an average age of just 43. They are driven by a messianic sense of



Enid Waldholz carries a copy of the Gingrich manifesto around in her handbag like a Bible

mission, and a fierce loyalty to the man who honed their political message, coached many of them through tapes and seminars — in the unshakable art of destroying their liberal opponents, and personally campaigned for them last autumn.

"Newt, Newt, Newt" they chanted when Mr Gingrich first appeared before them after the great Republican triumph of November 8. Mrs Waldholz hesitates to credit anyone but herself for her election victory, but readily concedes that Mr Gingrich established the "environment that created the landslide of 1994". On the wall behind her hangs a framed print of the November 9 Salt Lake Tribune proclaiming "Waldholz Leads Tuesday Night Massacre".

Hubris afflicts all freshman classes, of course. One after another they have arrived in Wash-

ington naively convinced they can change the world, but invariably they have been frustrated by the capriciousness of the political process. This one will be different, Mrs Waldholz argues, because unlike its predecessors it has a party leadership actually spearheading the fight for reform rather than striving to frustrate it.

The greater danger for the Class of 94 is that it will succeed too well. The public strongly supports the abstract notion of minimalist government, but is likely to howl when it sees cherished federal programmes killed off wholesale. The great middle class may not mind less federal spending on the poor and minorities, but will furiously resist cuts in such basic government functions as education. It could come to equate Mr Gingrich

and his loyal lieutenants with meanness, not less government.

Mrs Waldholz has been dubbed the "Mormon Margaret Thatcher", a comparison that delights her. The former Prime Minister "was not only forthright in establishing her positions but also fought for them", she says. "It's that sort of forthrightness and fortitude that people in this country feel is lacking. That's why they have such low regard for politicians."

She and her fellow freshmen will require huge dollops of Thatcher-like courage if they are to weather the political storms ahead, but for now they exude only unquenchable optimism and excitement. "I am one of the luckiest people in the world," Mrs Waldholz says. "I am part of something historic... No one will remember my name in 40 years, but they will remember this Congress."

Let the trained take the strain

Why shouldn't children have stress counselling? They have enough worries

STRESS is to the 20th century what hysteria was to the 19th. Just like greyhounds whose shivering indicates breeding, so we need to advertise our sensitive and tender sensibilities. To complain about stress shows an awareness of the brutishness of the world and how unsuited we are to it. It's an admirable weakness which most people secretly think of as a strength — except when others start moaning about it.

People tend to be very possessive about stress, as if there were a finite amount of it about for anyone else to claim a stressful existence is seen, threateningly, to minimise one's own suffering. But at least to admit to stress may be permitted: to reveal unhappiness, even to own up to it, is still not done.

If you can't face your own unhappiness, how can you possibly bear other people's? I was once on a television programme on which a psychotherapist was to talk about that particular issue.

Before the programme went out we were discussing the miseries of boarding school, and how it affected — in this case — young boys. "Many of my friends," said the broadcaster, somewhat missing the point, I thought, "went to boarding school, and they are all perfectly respectable, successful members of the community. They aren't" — this in tones of deepest sarcasm — "wounded by the experience." "Perhaps," I said wryly, "they're unhappy inside." "Hah," scoffed the broadcaster. "We're all unhappy inside."

It seems to me that the outraged harrumphs greeting the news that a school in Cheshire has begun stress counselling for five-year-olds are no different. It's just another instance of the furious, fearful denying of unhappiness.

Naturally, I'm not saying that all children are unhappy. But children do have worries, and there is no crime in acknowledging that. The children at the school in question are doing nothing more than sitting in a circle passing around a teddy bear. As each child gets its turn with the teddy, the youngster says what is on its mind. This is hardly some new-fangled brain-washing technique.

Of course, ideological issues are at stake here. If it had been announced that a school was taking steps to stamp out bullying, everyone would be applauding. But anything with the word counselling in it is seized upon as new-age crankiness or left-wing looniness, and any teacher who mentions that some children have difficulties which they

might be happier not bottling up is a gruesome apparition for an overbearing, intrusive state.

There are always jealousies between teachers and their pupils' parents, just as there are jealousies between nurses and their patients' relatives. A degree of possessiveness is unavoidable. It is not to be encouraged, it's true, but the level of paranoia here is extraordinary.

Just as *Teens before Bedtime*, a new BBC television drama, depicts a world in which nannies are drawn to their jobs not by love for children but by hatred for parents, so — as far as some teachers are concerned — parents aren't allies but the enemy (and thus, it follows, vice versa). But it's mad to suggest that these teddy-passing sessions are part of some dastardly plot to turn children into mini-grasses, denouncing their families and turning in their parents.

Lady Olga Maitland may see these classes as an invasion of family privacy, but why does she defensively presume that family matters are the only thing on a child's mind? Most problems do, I'd agree, stem from the family, but many of these children are as likely to be anxious about issues such as the behaviour of their classmates and the demands of homework.

There are, I know, teachers and social workers who do feel that every parent is a potential child abuser, and not so often with the emphasis on the "potential", but not all teachers and social workers are afflicted with such warped zeal.

I think that it is quite right to keep a check on the McCarthyite anti-parentism which isn't unknown in the social services — but let us not go to the other extreme.

LADY Olga's other grouch, and this she shares with many, is that children of five "simply do not suffer from stress". But childhood can be plagued by worries. Just because these worries seem insignificant to adults doesn't mean they don't terrify a child. My grandfather, who had his own business, was suddenly hauled up by the Inland Revenue, which suspected (wrongly) that something was amiss.

A huge case ensued, which, if my grandfather had lost, would have meant losing his business, his home, everything. My grandmother was understandably concerned about his welfare.

"How can you cope?" she asked. "Nothing," he replied, "can ever be as worrying as standing at the bus stop and suddenly remembering that I'd left my school cap at home."



NIGELLA LAWSON

Rural horror at plans still up in the air

The Vale of the White Horse, topped by its famous chalk effigy of an ancient equine god, is one of the glories of southern England. Below its downs lies a vast plain, extending almost as far as Oxford, bisected by the infant River Thames. Now that the River Air Force has pulled out, there is little left to disturb the silence. But the area, in which Alfred the Great spent his boyhood, is acutely vulnerable, not only to flood waters but to entrepreneurs with big ideas.

As revealed in *The Times*, the vale, whose eastern fringe is already disfigured by a power station and its pylons, is the latest corner of rural England to be threatened with "development". An airport has

The peace of the Vale of the White Horse is threatened by proposals for an airport. Walter Ellis reports

been proposed, with two runways, intended not as a regional feature or private flying club but as a key part of Western Europe's air infrastructure for the 21st century.

Plans detailing the development were drawn up in secrecy, with the knowledge of the Department of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority. A business consortium, led by Pleiade Associates, a development company based in Bristol and including the engineering consultants Ove Arup, hopes to carry out the work between Wantage and Abingdon, on what is now farmland, with the Vale of the White Horse as its western approach.

Economically, the concept is one of the most grandiose in recent years. It would cost an initial £4.5 billion and would, it is said, be open for business in 2007. Thousands of jobs would be created in the construction phase and thousands more in the long term.

In a letter to Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, Alan Geal, group director, makes no bones of his intentions. "It is a paradox that the eventual benefits of economic growth, whilst being great, are unknown and remote to many potential recipients, whereas the negative impacts are seen as real and direct by those who, in the short term, bear a cost. This tyranny of the status quo may be a root of our relative economic decline — one can always find a greater number to oppose than to support any change, and to do so with great vigour. In the end the weight of our past may drag us down."



A rural landscape blighted by a dream

Having thus categorised opponents of his scheme — who had at this point not even heard of it — as enemies of progress, Mr Geal goes on to warn the Minister that rejection of the airport could prove politically disastrous. His language — intended to be scholarly — is confused, but the message is clear: spread the misery.

In the Vale of the White Horse, celebrated by Thomas Hughes in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, feelings are more mixed than Mr Geal anticipates. "Great idea. That's all I've got to say," shouts one of the driving forces behind Anglo-European Motor Sport, in Stevenage, as he shuts the door in my face.

Another supporter, more surprisingly perhaps, is John Lane, landlord of the Woodman, an ancient, half-timbered inn in the village of Fernham, who is more concerned about finding a new carburettor for his elderly Jaguar than about the prospect of a daily stream of Boeing 777s and Airbus A380s less than a thousand feet above. "It wouldn't worry me," he says cheerfully. "At least I wouldn't have to face the drive to Gatwick any more."

Others, clearly "tyrants of the status quo", are less happy. Walking her dogs across the ridge of White Horse Hill, Jackie Topliss says she is "extremely concerned that anyone should even think of putting in an airport here that

could end up bigger than Heathrow". Local residents had already objected to a proposal from Thames Water to form a reservoir — "but this would be much worse".

Marsh Pratley, a Stevenage businessman who hopes to sell his converted barn, is appalled by the planning blight that has already settled over the district in the wake of the airport threat. "Obviously it will have an impact on people wanting to move into this area. I'm very disturbed. This is supposed to be a conservation area, and all this talk has scuppered our plans."

State agents are up in arms. Mafmans, in Abingdon, says that one sale has already fallen through this year as a result of the airport scare and that many potential buyers have asked anxiously for information on what is happening.

Abingdon District Council, one of the local authorities most affected by the proposal, called a special meeting today to discuss tactics, but the feeling of the majority is already clear.

Terry Cox, the council leader, has urged all residents to express their "sheer disgust". Rosemarie Allen, chairwoman of the planning committee, said she was sure that most councillors would condemn the scheme as "grossly arrogant and unconscionable".

Viewed from the lofty tranquillity of White Horse Hill, the human scale of previous development is immediately apparent. Only the belching smoke from the power station far to the east disturbs the peace. But it is all too easy to imagine aircraft after aircraft stacking overhead and then descending in a roar towards the waiting Tarmac and the forest of sparkling lights.

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Nice work if you are the boss

Graham Searjeant on the value of top businessmen

Labour is presently scoring copious points over the excesses of big business, but the Government — philosophically bound not to interfere — can do nothing about it.

In 1990, with high-profile companies suddenly collapsing, the Bank of England called on Sir Adrian Cadbury to head a committee on "the financial aspects of corporate governance". It soon became equally enmeshed, as Sir Adrian wearily noted, in "the controversy over directors' pay". His code of best practice was supposed to be the answer. Instead of directors setting their own pay and perks, these would be decided by a committee of independent non-executive directors.

Since then, under some pressure from a few City institutions, so-called "remuneration committees" have begun to undo the worst excesses. These were pinpointed by Sir Owen Green, the puritan creator of the vast BTR conglomerate, in a lecture for the Institute of Directors. Those responsible for companies' performance should be rewarded well for success, he argued, but they could not simply pile up rewards for success while protecting themselves against failure.

No firm can afford to admit its managers are mediocre

Judged by these tests, poor Cedric Brown, the hounded chief executive of British Gas, is the apotheosis of virtue. His 75 per cent rise in basic pay was part of a reform instituted by Richard Giordano, the new part-time chairman of the company. Layers of mysterious bonuses were stripped away. Mr Brown's previous three-year contract was cut, though only to a rolling two years. And publicly disclosed share options were linked to long-term performance on behalf of shareholders.

Oddly, the British Gas changes also appear to address the main stated concerns of Sir Adrian's successor, Sir Richard Greenbury of Marks & Spencer, whose committee has six months to produce its own code. Clearly, however, all this does not meet the public concern gleefully whipped up by Labour to attack the privatised utilities.

Great though the utility bosses' rewards have been since privatisation, they are generally lower than those of the boards of other like-sized private companies. Mr Brown's job has been transformed from the relative simplicity of lightly regulated monopoly to one of the hardest in all business. But his rewards and pay rise contrast with vast swathes of job cuts, talk of pay cuts for some workers and the prospect of higher charges for some poorer consumers.

The pay of production workers is the prime cost of the gas business. If these costs are not kept within strict bounds, the business will decline or fail — even if it is a regulated monopoly. The pay of executive directors, however, is regarded not as a mainstream business cost but as something quite different, the cost to shareholders of top-class performance. And behind that is the simplistic assumption that you get what you pay for.

To some extent, this is valid. In an era of lottery millionaires, few begrudge the much greater rewards of Peter Wood, whose brilliance and determination created the Direct Line insurance business, created jobs and saved consumers money.

But what of a failing business? It must surely pay for the skill and determination that are needed to save it. Good directors would hardly choose to ditch a comfortable post to take up such a challenge unless they were offered high rewards for success and perhaps some protection against failure. And no big company is prepared to concede that it willingly settles for run-of-the-mill managers — even if, perforce, most do.

This is the process that ratchets up executive pay without heeding its effect on ordinary people a few rungs down the ladder. The trouble with remuneration committees is that they consist of the wrong kind of non-executive directors. Usually, companies find the most useful non-executives for general business advice are the top managers of unrelated companies. They increasingly dominate the pay decisions affecting each other. Directors may not set their own pay, but it is rather as if Ford workers had their pay rates set by Barclays employees.

Even if the non-executives try to be objective, they will receive advice on going rates from recruitment professionals — whose own fees may be linked to pay. Professional advisers are no more likely to say that market rates for chief executives are falling than estate agents are to say that rents should go down.

Most of all, however, pay rates are driven by the only true market in top executives: the merry-go-round of finance directors. The job of a finance director is more comparable between companies than any other top executive. In a finance-driven corporate culture, everyone wants the best. And the earnings of partners in accountancy firms tend to set a minimum. The privatised utilities, changing from state monopoly to the complex world of overseas trading and financial markets, have been among the most assiduous acquirers of high-powered new finance directors. Yet strangely, the burgeoning cost of finance directors is not something the finance department often calls to the board's attention.

A new breed of outsiders on board pay committees might yet end the spiral — just as a sensible committee would doubtless put a stop to the spiral of football transfer fees. But in the practical world, it is unlikely to happen. For monetary rewards are identified with worth, the owners of big business do not control it, and there is no clear line between the risk-taking entrepreneur and the good chief executive.

Woodrow Wyatt says the Upper House performs its function better than any Labour alternative

If we do get a Labour government, an extraordinarily high proportion of the time available for legislation will be occupied by constitutional reforms. Parliaments for Scotland and Wales have already had an airing, as well as possible regional authorities. As policy here is prone to alteration, precision is absent. Labour's stance on the House of Lords is hazier yet. We are told that within the first parliamentary session of a Labour government, hereditary peers will not be allowed to vote, though they may speak. As there must be a number of government ministers in the Lords, it would seem likely that one or more of the 13 Labour hereditary peers would hold some office, and so be required to propose measures without being able to vote.

However, it now seems that the present House of Lords will be replaced by a chamber elected by a form of proportional representation — as our members of the European Parliament would also be. The new Lords, following the pattern in other countries, would be elected for fixed periods, not coinciding with general elections. According to the "Policy Briefing Handbook" issued in April 1992, their ability to delay legislation would be limited to one opportunity for revision before a return to the Commons for a final decision. That is, unless "fundamental individual

and constitutional rights" (whatever they may be) are involved, when the chamber's delaying powers would last until the next general election.

This conflicts with a 1992 Labour statement of policy: "Since the present House of Lords is completely undemocratic, an elected second chamber is bound to have greater legitimacy than its predecessor." Actually, the Lords is the last bastion of parliamentary democracy. In the Commons, a government usually can rely on the whips to deliver a majority, although on a free vote the number of its unconvinced supporters would sometimes deny it one. In the Lords, the Government since 1979 has been defeated much more often: 17 times in the 1990-91 session and ten times in the 1992-93 session. During the present session it has been repeatedly defeated over the Criminal Justice Bill, to the great annoyance and inconvenience of ministers. There are 1,040 peers eligible to

Leave us Lords well alone

vote, among whom the 474 Conservatives do not have an overall majority. The 285 crossbenchers (of whom 168 are hereditary) hold the balance. They are particularly dangerous, as large numbers of Tory peers rarely turn up except when desperately summoned by whips to avert an impending defeat. Even then, a substantial element of those pressed to attend have a most unfortunate democratic habit of listening to debates and voting against the Government if they think it has lost the argument. This democratic freedom would vanish if Lords were elected and subject to dissolution.

Two-thirds of the sittings were attended by at least 285 peers. Those who clocked in more than occasionally claimed on average less than £14,000. For that, the country gets hundreds of amendments to improve Bills from the Commons. In the 1992-93 session, there were 1,674 such amendments — which must have been important, for only 18 were rejected by the Commons.

In addition, there are remarkably effective committees. The Lords European Communities Committee (to which there is no plausible Commons equivalent) led the whole EC in exposing fraud, providing our Government with irrefutable evidence with which to force our partners to curtail or extinguish colossal frauds on European taxpayers. The Lords Science and Technology Committee, calling on world experts, has done distinguished work on such subjects as systematic biology, the science budget, safety of ships and forensic

science, which could never have emanated from the Commons, nor from an elected and salaried Upper House.

Real power (which Labour intends to diminish through its subservience to Brussels) and public attention are rightly focused on the elected Commons. But Labour's leaders are mostly ignorant of the strength and value of the Lords. They are befuddled by the ostensible imperfections of its haphazard composition, which confers privilege indiscriminately. But having sat in the Commons from 1945 to 1970 (with a gap of four years), I can confidently say the quality of thinking and discussion is generally superior in the Lords and more in touch with public opinion.

If a Labour government mistakenly thinks that the House of Lords tilts too much to one party, it could easily remedy this by creating a sufficient number of new peers — though they might well be disappointed by their subsequent independence of mind. As Tory governments have been. What is clearly indefensible in cost and trouble is the creation of a second elected chamber with members who would not hesitate to sink their strengthened claws into the first. Mr Blair should pay another visit to the Lords and more in touch with public opinion.

Still harking on a lost clause

Socialism's dinosaurs seem ready to do anything to prevent Labour being elected

There is still time for Tony Blair to get out of Labour politics and get into something much more agreeable and pleasant — for instance, shovelling pig-will, or organising illegal cock-fights, or best of all, hitting old ladies over the head and stealing their handbags. You see, the great thing about such go-as-outs is that in none of them would he have to deal with Ken Coates.

Ah yes, Ken Coates. Yes, Well, well, Ken Coates, you say? Ah. I truly believed that Mr Coates was dead (I am glad he is not, not having heard anything of or about him for a very long time. But I was looking in the wrong direction. He became an MEP (who hasn't), and vanished.

Now, then, I have become hoarse saying that there are Labour MPs and aspiring Labour MPs and even union bosses, who have, buried so far down in their psyches that it is invisible even to them, a profound belief that talking office would soil the purity and nobility of their cause; office, you see, inevitably carries with it compromises, abandoned projects, half-leaves, even downright necessary broken promises.

Whenever I put forward that theory, I am told that it is esoteric nonsense, but I am a patient fellow, and I was sure that sooner or later I would be able to prove it. And am I not now fully vindicated? It was only a matter of hours after Blair had banged a few heads together (how I would have loved to be there when Stan Newens started warbling about the great days of 1945, only to have Blair point out that Stan was exactly half a century behind) that Coates was uttering in a manner to warm every Tory's heart.

Blair has not the faintest idea how socialism think... the party's values... not as all anxious to make their peace with market capitalism... the short truth is that there is a fundamental political disagreement between socialists... and the Leader of the party... this you must not begin to understand the mentality of the party... global capitalism is more powerful than it has ever been... Mr Blair... will put no robber barons in the dock... if the Labour Party can come under this kind of influence, what use will it be to any of our people?

Well, do you still deny that there is something in my belief that Clause Four Labour men like Coates (I wouldn't be surprised to learn that he pronounces "capitalism" with the stress on the second syllable) uncon-

sciously want defeat? What else can it mean when, on the eve of a keynote speech by the party Leader, his faithful followers carefully make sure that the crucial speech is ruined?

Nor is that all. Think back only a few months. John Smith was hardly cold in his grave when a similar lunacy was unrolled under the banner-cry (it was genuinely cried: "Don't get worried about the leadership — remember that we represent class interests." I had to wipe away a tear, though I am still not sure whether the tear was for the innocents who jabber about class interests, or for the rage that it breeds in me. But when Mrs Alice Mahon, MP, found herself in the limelight, she took the opportunity to jabber (for a moment I thought it was Mrs Alice Bacon, that wise and sensible

Bernard Levin

lady, now alas dead; I gave up, pausing only to hear Mrs Mahon say of the Labour Party that "the executive can't be trusted to honour the socialist commitment of Clause Four of the party's constitution, which advocates common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange".

Poor Blair! What will happen if the Coateses and their ilk do succeed in keeping Clause Four completely intact? Even if they don't, we must remember that there is a substantial section of the party (about half the MEPs for a start) who despise the party Leader, and despise him particularly because he "has not the faintest idea how socialists think". I don't know about you, but I shudder goes through me when I consider how socialists think.

Poor Blair! I yearn to vote for him, and indeed I shall do so, however low my spirits may fall by then, as I see the Coateses and Mahons and their like attacking Mr Blair's unspeakable "modernising tendency".

After all, Mr Blair as prime minister would know as well as I do that the ultimate catastrophe — the promise of a minimum wage — will, unless the heavens fall, be enacted, and will instantly add roughly one million to the unemployment figures. Why, then, did he agree to add to that crazy burden? Because he had already to struggle against giving a fixed figure! And because, of course, he had to give a sop — no, lots of sops — to Cerberus, in the form of the Four Labour men like Coates (I wouldn't be surprised to learn that he pronounces "capitalism" with the stress on the second syllable) uncon-



how Labour can, if it really puts its back into it, lose the election. Hear his voice: it is that of Jim Mearns, from Glasgow, and for him, Clause Four is

a symbol of our commitment to the working class and a succinct statement of our core philosophy. I am sick of hearing that socialism is dead or dying. Socialism is very much alive and we are striving forward with victory in sight. Fifteen years of Tory rule has convinced us that capitalism is evil and based on the exploitation of the poor, the weak, the young and the old. Let's be tough on capitalism and tough on the causes of capitalism. Let's do it. We should raise the scarlet standard high and keep the red flag flying here.

After that, even the cool voice of Denis MacShane, who used to fight together with me against the lunacies of the National Union of Journalists (does it still exist?), could do little but say: "We are a party of the people, and not a cult of Clause Four." If some of his colleagues have their way, it will be.

There is much talk, not least by me, about the 15 years of Tory government, now crumbling to its end. But forget the Tories for a moment, indeed forget Labour too. Just think of those years as years, and contemplate the enormous changes they

have seen. Do the Ken Coateses and the Dennis Skinners and all really believe that to win they must raise the scarlet standard high? Even I, unspeakable cynic that I am, believed that Clause Four would have been laughed into absurdity by this time.

Now do you understand that Labour at last has a chance, a real chance, a tremendous chance, a huge chance, an enormous chance, of losing the election by a very wide margin? Mr Blair knows what time it is, and it isn't the time for Marxism, even if Prof Hobbsbawm thinks it is. (Is it true, incidentally, that Prof Hobbsbawm's latest million-page book says that Stalin was, on the whole, a good egg?)

How can we break that culture of failure, the belief that half a loaf is no good, and that only a loaf perfect in every way, and still warm from the oven, can be buttered and eaten? For we can make fun of Arthur Scargill and Alice Mahon and many more, for they are indeed funny. But it is the second wave that drowns the swimmer, and it is not possible to make fun of Ken Coates. What is more, it is not possible to shut Coates up, as Prescott was finally shut up, having

been at last taught that softee, softee, catches monkey.

But many, very many, will not come softee to catches monkey; indeed, they will cut down the tree in which the monkey lives, and burn it for firewood, while the monkey is decked up with laughter in another part of the forest.

The Tories must go. They no longer have any beliefs, any ideas, any hopes, any integrity, anything at all except the knowledge that they must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly, shall all hang separately. (And even as I quote, I feel myself stained by using the words of so splendid and honorable man as Benjamin Franklin to make my point about the rubbish called the Tories.)

Mr Blair has nowhere to go except upwards. And, as he knows better than I, walking up a steep hill while carrying several gigantic mill-wheels around your neck is a considerable task, particularly when there are also considerable numbers of dead elephants to account for.

This country deserves better than the Tories. This country will not get anything better until the Tories go. And every day they stay, the urgency gets worse. Can the Tories get worse? Incredibly and alas, they can. And only Mr Coates can save them.

Sleazeless

THE CONSERVATIVE Party historian Lord Blake will put on a punchy show when he appears today before the first meeting of the Nolan Committee, which is investigating the rules governing MPs' behaviour. First of all, he insists, the word sleaze will be off the agenda.

"It's not a word I am going to use in evidence," he tells me sternly. "Sleaze is such a vague and general word. What we are concerned with here is the proper standards in public life."

The recent scrapes of MPs over such delicate matters as "cash for questions" and "holidays at Paris Ritz" are "absolutely nothing", Blake says, compared with the corrupt practices of the past. "Look at the Marconi scandal in 1912, where the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Lloyd George) and the Attorney-General (Rufus Isaacs) were speculating in shares in the Marconi company with the benefit of inside knowledge."

Blake, the biographer of Disraeli (who he insists would have passed

a corruption inquiry with flying colours), says he has never been summoned before a committee of such standing and he plans to make the most of it.

"I am going to tell them that when MPs register their interests to inform the public what businesses they are involved with, they ought to show just how much

MR HOWARD, YOUR FILING CABINET... IT'S ESCAPED



money they get from them. I am also going to say that members of the House of Lords should register their interests. And I don't think I am alone in thinking that."

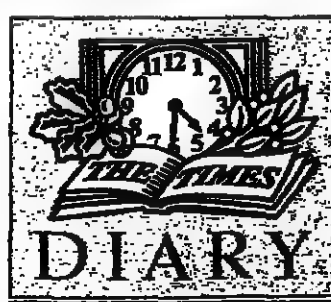
Fast forward

MY SYMPATHIES to the comedian Paul Merton who suffered a mishap leaping into bed the other day. The jowly comedian's smile was wiped from his face during rehearsals for his forthcoming play *The Live Bed Show* in a Covent Garden studio.

Merton jumped onto the bed, which was on castors. The bed flew across the stage through an open fire escape, and came to rest wedged in the doorway. Merton, however, carried on going, shot down the stairs and landed at the bottom with a bump. His wife, Caroline Quentin, who witnessed the scene is helping him to recover from a sprained ankle.

Beer money

THE THESPIAN element in Tony Blair's Labour Party are eschewing champagne socialism to let the beer



talk. The latest money-spinning wheeze for the fighting fund is an evening of poems and puns.

On Friday evening, west London "lunatics" will gather at the Greenwood Centre in Hampton Hill to read their favourite poems and quaff ale. Hayley Mills, Samantha Bond, Miriam Karlin and Liz Crowther, daughter of Leslie, will be reading to an audience paying £2.50 each to party coffers. But in the spirit of comradeship anyone who should find themselves inspired by either the lyrical or alcoholic muse can take to the floor to recite for the cause.

Term cards for the forthcoming programme of debates at the Cambridge Union sport an extraordi-

nary reproduction of Winnie the Pooh. "The new president is rumoured to be a devoted fan of the university's Winnie the Pooh Society," explains my man at the college bar wearily.

Cap that

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE's brother Lord Chewton faced demonstrators trespassing on the family estate on Sunday with aristocratic aplomb. He was sporting a beret. Such headwear may have been a favourite of the late Benny Hill but is not commonplace in deepest Somerset.

"I'm not noted for my sartorial elegance but I've been wearing berets for quite a few years now," says Chewton, who with his wispy beard looked rather more Bohemian than some of the demonstrators. "I really can't think what else to wear. They are very practical and very cheap. But unfortunately, I keep losing them."

Film prop

THE PERFECTLY formed film star Mel Gibson could give the



Sporran partners: Mel Gibson (left) and Nick Popplewell

England rugby pack a tip or two before they lock shoulders on Saturday with the beefy mass of Irish prop forward Nick Popplewell. The two recently played at being 13th-century Scottish warriors together.

Recovering from a knee injury last summer, Popplewell (175, stone before lunch) repaired to Ireland, where he helped a chum to groin-kick horses on Gibson's forthcoming movie *Brave Heart* (about William



Wallace's victory over the English at Stirling in 1297). The cauliflower-eared player was recruited as an extra, once a sturdy nag had been found.

By the time I have a family and grow up I'll be telling them Mel Gibson, starred in my film," he growls.

P.H.S



LOCAL DIFFICULTIES

Banham has a message for Major and Blair

Sir John Banham's Local Government Commission has proved one of the most complex — and useful — inquiries into the state of the nation of recent times. The commission was set up in 1992 to rationalise the allegedly old-fashioned system of district and county councils. Ministers hoped that a tidy new map of unitary authorities would emerge from Sir John's recommendations. In fact, the commission's proposals amount to just the opposite.

Sir John has declined a uniform model of local government and endorsed instead the political and social diversity his commission discovered on its travels. As he remarks in an interview with *The Times* today, the exercise has taught him humility. He has left 32 of the 39 shires more or less as they were. He has listened carefully to the people whom his recommendations will affect.

The Banham commission's publications and polls will be an invaluable archive for future historians. They should also be studied by today's policymakers. John Major's observation at his press conference yesterday that the British constitution is unwritten but not unchanging posed more questions than it answered. The Government has good electoral reasons for slamming the door on Labour's plans for constitutional change. When will it be confident enough to set out more of its own ideas? Dismissing Labour's devolution proposals in aggressive High Tory language is not enough. Conservatives must explain what they would do to enhance local identity, improve civic ties and bring government closer to the people.

Labour must also adjust its thinking in the light of Sir John's work. The Opposition has tended to equate local governance with town hall rule; indeed, it happily proposes a new layer of regional assemblies in England. Yet

the landscape of local loyalties and institutions is growing ever more crowded. Today's Britain is as likely to identify with a Neighbourhood Watch or school governing body as with a county or district council. Sir John's argument that 'town hall bureaucracy' is something of a secret garden will be judged an understatement by many frustrated citizens. Restoring powers on bloc to local government — as Labour would do — is no more a panacea than was the Tory demand for unitary authorities.

Secondly, Sir John's arguments about the impact of technology on local communities should be heeded carefully. The 'electronic town hall' only sounds a distant prospect because the British approach to political culture is so traditionalist. In fact, technology is fostering group identity in the workplace now; faxes and e-mail have already strengthened the sense that exchange of information defines community as much as place or politics. Those who would see local democracy prosper should investigate ways of harnessing this new force.

Sir John is right, thirdly, to emphasise the role of small institutions. The essence of democracy is representation; but participation should have a role too. The enthusiasm for grant-maintained schools in some areas has shown how citizens can reclaim institutions from bureaucrats and make them their own. Schemes to encourage partnership between police and communities have been remarkably successful. In particular, Sir John's proposal that town and parish councils assume a broader advisory role should be taken seriously by the main parties. Constitutional issues of this kind still attract less attention than devolution to Scotland or the future of the European Union. The Banham commission has shown that they deserve a far greater prominence.

NHS inefficiency and rationed care

From Professor Colin Roberts and Mr David Crosby

Sir, It is commonly stated that the demand for health care is infinite, and that some form of rationing is inevitable. We do not believe this to be true. Most disease and injury can be treated efficiently by modern techniques, but the delivery of health care by the NHS is inefficient.

There are ample data to support this in regard to outpatient services, the use of hospital beds, and the deployments of professional skills. The Audit Commission has already identified many of these deficiencies (report, December 1, 1994).

At any one time at least 10 per cent of all hospital beds are occupied by those who would be at home if they had adequate social or family support.

We believe that to ration health care would be premature. The imperatives are to rid the NHS of inefficiency and to limit the many ways in which it is wrongly burdened by purely social problems. It is quite wrong to expect that those needing effective forms of treatment should be made to wait for relief because of failures which have not yet been properly addressed.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN ROBERTS
(Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology),
DAVID CROSBY
(Consultant surgeon),
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XW,
January 13.

Ambulance report

From the Chairman of the South Thames Regional Health Authority

Sir, Mr Alan Meyer's interesting letter (January 7) concerning the London Ambulance Service is inaccurate in two respects. The South Thames Regional Health Authority is not, as Mr Meyer states, formerly the South West Thames RHA: it is a new authority created by the merging of the former South West Thames and South East Thames authorities and came into being on April 1, 1994.

I became its chairman on that date, having had no association with either of the two previous authorities, and I have therefore not been 'chairman of the very authority which has for many years had the overall responsibility for overseeing the performance of the London Ambulance Service'. My responsibility was for no more than the three months prior to the tragic death of Nasima Begum.

This allowed me to look at the LAS with a fresh mind detached from the past, but to do so quickly. I hope that Mr Meyer will agree, in the light of the team's report (details, January 13), that we have been objective and honest, and that we have charted a positive way forward for the LAS.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WELLS,
Chairman, South Thames Regional Health Authority,
40 Eastbourne Terrace, W2.

British Legion

From Mr Malcolm Lawson-Paul

Sir, The newly-unveiled logo of the Royal British Legion (report and photograph, January 5, earlier editions) is a most disappointing piece of design, lacking either dignity or tradition. It is a poor symbol, in my mind, of the valuable work undertaken by this fine organisation. The heraldic badge it replaces was admirably suited to its purpose, and by inclusion of St Edward's Crown gave credence to the 'Royal' appellation.

Some 25 years ago, in the course of my professional work, I was privileged to be invited to engrave and illuminate on vellum a book of remembrance of war dead for a local parish church; with the permission of the Royal British Legion the title page featured their badge in colour and gold leaf.

It is sad to reflect that this latest design would provide little inspiration for a similar commission today.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM LAWSON-PAUL,
111 Saint Pancras,
Chichester, West Sussex,
January 5.

Imperial echoes

From Mr Julian Bertlin

Sir, Alan Forward (letter, January 7) cites the Owen Falls dam at the source of the Nile as an achievement of Empire. Built to provide electricity to large areas of Uganda and Kenya it has operated continuously since 1954. Eighty thousand tons of plant and construction materials (including 36,000 tons of cement) were shipped out from Europe in the difficult post-war period. They were then hauled 750 miles by rail from Mombasa to the site at Jinja.

The dam was completed in three years, ahead of schedule. As resident director of the construction company my father was able to write a cheque for £1 million in 1954 to the shareholders of the private consortium which financed the project.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BERTLIN,
Ridge Cottage, Church Lane,
Molash, nr Canterbury, Kent,
January 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Church of England and 'socialism'

From the Right Reverend Richard Llewellyn, Bishop Suffragan of Dover (Bishop in Canterbury)

Sir, I am puzzled to know just what Church of England my friend John Witheridge, senior chaplain at Eton College, is describing (report, January 12). He suggests that it has espoused a whole host of 'socialist' causes which has changed its theology into sociology and its priests into social workers. Certainly not the Church to which I have actively belonged for over 40 years.

For all its faults, the Church I experience day by day is, by and large, getting on with its proper job of praying, worshipping and caring, and sharing the good news of God's sovereignty and love. Moreover, it is undeniable that His love extends not least to those who are disadvantaged and marginalised.

It just will not do simply to dismiss whole groups of people by the use of catchphrases such as 'black rights' and 'bias to the poor'.

I am dismayed that a person in such a responsible position, representing such an eminent institution, should have apparently succumbed to some of the prejudices which a number of ill-informed people delight to employ in taking a swipe at the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LLEWELLYN,
9 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent,
January 13.

From the Rector of Pevensey

Sir, The Conduct of Eton is right in almost all he says about the modern Church of England as being narrow, exclusivist and sectarian. But Mr

Witheridge is wrong to describe the Church's agenda as socialist, for the Church's hierarchy only selectively endorses secular, modish slogans to achieve popularity. No doubt some bishops would make a linguistic move to the right if it provided a more effective means to power.

Support for Mr Witheridge's perspective would be the Archbishop of Canterbury's preoccupation with the destruction of the parochial system in England. Dr Carey, in my view, has imposed a lightweight anti-traditionalist, neo-Protestantism on the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HAMMOND
CHRISTIAN,
Marsh Hall, Pevensey, East Sussex.

From the Rector of Bourn

Sir, The Conduct of Eton's 151-year career has been marked by one three-year spell as a curate in a parish, and that over ten years ago, since when he has ministered in public schools and at Lambeth. All quite valuable, to be sure, but not such that it qualifies him to sit in judgment over the rest of us.

His view is in marked contrast to the positive and forward-looking view of the Church of England offered by the evangelical bishops at last weekend's Evangelical Anglican Leaders' Conference in London. No sectarianism or grumblings there, but an unequivocal commitment to being the Church not just of but also for England.

Yours, hot under his collar,
JEREMY PEMBERTON,
The Rectory,
Short Street, Bourn, Cambridgeshire,
January 12.

their descendants) would be the first to be offered restitution of their rightful inheritance.

It is true that the legacy of unexploded shells and other missiles would pose a formidable obstacle to the painful task of rebuilding and recreating a home. But this would be a challenge I would be prepared to accept. We never had electricity or water-borne sanitation in 1943 and our water supply depended on a gravity-restricted pipeline. A modern generator and renewed piping from a restored water tank on the hillside are perfectly feasible solutions. We have lived overseas under far more primitive circumstances.

Fifty and more years on, not many of the original inhabitants of Tyneham are still alive. But there are descendants and close relatives whose hearts remain in Tyneham and who will never accept that the Ministry of Defence should be allowed to claim permanent title to this land — contrary to a promise given at a time when we vacated our property in the national interest.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. H. HOUSE,
Padfield House,
West Bradley,
Glastonbury, Somerset,
January 9.

Uneven honours

From Mr James Hampton

Sir, The uneven distribution of honours referred to by Major-General Perkins (letter, January 13) was not permitted to purchase 1/4 oz of sausage is part of some devious plan to dispose of a European salami mountain. The true reason is somewhat more benign.

All weighing instruments used for trade are required by law to be accurate within certain small limits of error. At very low loads, these errors can become proportionately large, and a recent EU directive now requires machines to be marked with a 'minimum load', which is 20 times the legal error allowance. This provision protects both the customer from receiving more than 5 per cent less than he has ordered, and the shopkeeper from inadvertently committing the offence of selling short weight.

If there is sufficient demand for sales of the sort Mr Pugh requested, then the answer is for the store to acquire a more suitable weighing instrument, or for it to offer a 'mixed sausage selection' at an appropriate price, in the same way that some confectioners now offer mixtures of different sweets.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. HOWELL,
(Lead Officer for Legal Metrology,
Institute of Trading Standards
Administration),
Environmental Services Department,
Dudley Metropolitan
Borough Council,
4 Ednam Road,
Dudley, West Midlands.

From Mr Graham Chambers

Sir, On holiday in North Yorkshire in August, six of us stopped at a café in Saltaire for a cup of tea. Seated at a table near to the counter and finding the tea somewhat tannic, I asked for the milk jug, in order to add some more. I was refused on the basis that 'the milk-jug could not leave the counter, because of local authority health rules'.

Not all *bêtise* comes from Brussels. Yours etc,
GRAHAM CHAMBERS,
6 rue Mercier,
Kopstall, Luxembourg,
January 13.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5044.

DINI'S SHADOWS

Italy does not need another caretaker leader

Financial markets celebrated last Friday when Lamberto Dini, the former central banker and professional non-politician, was designated to run Italy's next government. The celebration could prove premature. While most prime ministers find it easier to win a vote of confidence in their parliaments than in the global markets, in Signor Dini's case this traditional maxim has to be turned around. The markets will instinctively give Signor Dini the benefit of the doubt because of his excellent reputation as a central banker; he will find Italy's cynical voters and politicians even harder to control than the foreign exchange speculators.

The new Prime Minister has two difficult acts to follow when he assembles his Cabinet and seeks his vote of confidence from Parliament. He must deal with the legacy of Silvio Berlusconi, the media magnate whose coalition Government collapsed before Christmas. And he must also live up to the image of the incorruptible and politically aloof Carlo Ciampi, the Bank of Italy governor who headed Rome's last technocratic Government in 1993.

Signor Berlusconi undermined his personal credibility by abusing his television monopoly and failing to address conflicts of interests. But despite his personal flaws, he set an exciting and generally credible agenda for Italy's political renewal: radical proposals to privatise the Italian State's vast inefficient industrial holdings, to simplify taxation, to cut government spending, and to pursue a more assertive, Euro-sceptical foreign policy. Signor Dini now has to continue enacting some of the most controversial elements of this programme, but without the benefit of his predecessor's personal charisma and electoral mandate.

To be able to carry on with radical reform

Signor Dini will need to command cross-party parliamentary support, or at least acquiescence, of the kind that Signor Ciampi was able to assemble in 1993, at the peak of Italy's revulsion with its corrupt political establishment. To do this he will have to present himself as an Olympian figure, completely above the political fray.

This image may be harder to sustain for Signor Dini than it was for Signor Ciampi. First, he was a senior member of the Berlusconi Government, albeit without any formal affiliation to the political parties that Government represented. Secondly, he was involved in an acrimonious dispute with the Bank of Italy — a dispute uncomfortably reminiscent of Signor Berlusconi's parallel efforts to dominate Italy's state broadcasting system. Thirdly and most importantly, Signor Berlusconi has repeatedly suggested that he has made a private deal with the new Prime Minister, under which a new election would be called within the next six months.

Since a summer election would favour Signor Berlusconi's party and would forestall the anti-trust legislation feared by the media magnate, any such commitment to an early poll could easily undermine the new Prime Minister's appearance of independence. For this reason alone, Signor Dini would do well to state explicitly that he has given no private undertakings about the length of his Government's term. If this means alienating Signor Berlusconi and governing with the tacit backing of the post-Communist PDS party, Signor Dini should be prepared to accept this support. The challenges for the new Government created by Italy's parlous political condition are too great to be resolved in a few months. Signor Dini should undertake to govern for as long as he can find a majority in Parliament.

TEAM SPIRITS

Blame European rules for £7m transfer fees

An English dentist, builder or croupier can legally seek work anywhere in the 15 member states of the European Union, and their equivalents can do the same here. But a free market in labour — one of the main achievements of the European Single Market — is denied to workers whose mobility is commonly seen as routine.

Club football players are still defined by a national origin. Under a regulation passed in 1992 by the Union of European Football Associations, clubs wishing to play in European championships must stick to a permitted quota of foreigners they can field. That is the chief reason that the search for a native talent has become so cut-throat a competition and why transfer fees have soared way over the goalpost. Andy Cole is a fine player. But his £7 million price tag has far more to do with his birthplace than his talents as a striker.

In days gone by English clubs did not need to look far afield for fresh blood. A stream of talented players jostled to be signed up; and there were Welshmen, Scots and Irishmen aplenty happy to play for the leading English clubs. European football owed much to the game's development in Britain, and the clubs of the United Kingdom countries did well in the European championships for years. But the Europeanised Britain's fourfold entry: Bavaria was not allowed to field a team nor Brittany. And the Uefa rule struck at this dominance: if Wales is a separate country, then Welsh players cannot play for English teams.

Few would quarrel with the notion that a club ought, in principle, to have some relation to its country of origin. There is a potential absurdity if fans accompanying their teams overseas were to wave their flags and voice their patriotic fervour only for East Europeans, South Americans, Russians or Frenchmen — players who have little in common with Manchester or Milan, and can sometimes barely speak the language of their supporters.

Like many high-minded attempts to regulate, however, the Uefa rule has led to its own absurdities. For many years richer clubs have set out to pick the international best. This has led to teams, such as AC Milan, which are a veritable United Nations. These high-profile teams are costly to run. But they can recoup their huge transfer fees from the profitable European matches — if, crucially, they are able to qualify.

The new nationality rule hits especially these top English teams, where Scots count as foreigners. Transfer prices will continue to soar. The distortion of the market not only gives players inflated ideas of their worth; it appears to show that English players are better than available East European talent, which is ready, plentiful and cheap.

In the end the market will find its own equilibrium: it will pay clubs to train players to the standards set by foreigners. But meanwhile English football will be dominated not by talent or innovation but by even more cash. The owners will have to be richer; and the game will be poorer.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

NORFOLK
January 16: By Command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherill (Marshall of the Dip lomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Señor José Juan De Ollague at 48 Belgrave Square, London SW1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United Mexican States to the Court of St James's.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 16: The Prince of Wales this morning received representatives of Grampian Police in

connection with the Diced Cap Charity Appeal.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 16: Princess Alexandra, President of the British School at Rome, this afternoon received Sir Alan Campbell upon retiring as Chairman of the Council and Professor Fergus Mullar on assuming the appointment of Vice-Chairman.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Hellenic College at 67 Port Street, London SW1.

Birthdays today

Mr Muhammad Ali, boxer, 53; Sir William Benyon, farmer, 66; Sir John Boyd, diplomat, 59; Sir Malcolm Chaplin, chartered surveyor, 61; Sir Michael Clapham, former chairman, IMI, 63; Sir Mervyn Davies, former High Court judge, 77; Sir Edward Penness, radar pioneer, 83; Mrs Monica Furlong, writer, 65; Mr Neil W. Gamble, headmaster, Exeter School, 52; Mr Paul Howell, former MEP, 44; Mr James Earl Jones, actor, 64; Mr Anthony Kenney, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 52; The Right Rev Nigel McKillop, Bishop of Wakefield, 53; Mr Tony Mullins, jockey, 33; Sir Geoffrey Parke, MP, 95; Professor W.B. Robertson, histopathologist, 75; Mrs Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist, 67; Miss Maura Shearer, ballerina, 69; Professor Sir David Smith, radiologist, 57; Mr Denis Tunnicliffe, managing director, London Underground, 52; Mr Clyde Walcott, cricketer, 69; Mr George Walker, former governor, Spal Prison, 58; Mr Paul Young, singer, 39.

Dinners

Athenaeum
Professor Arthur Ellison was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum, Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok was the chairman.

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, HM Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd-Edwards and the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mrs Joanna Cox, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guest speaker was Sir William Purves, Chairman, HSBC Holdings plc, Mr Dyfrig D.J. Jones, General Manager, Wales, Midland Bank plc, president.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London
Mr Jack Straw, MP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the London Marriott Hotel. Mr John Parker, president, was in the chair.

Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company for the ensuing year: President, Mr Geoffrey B. Brunning; Warden, Mr Richard F.H. Vanderpump; Mr Nigel S. Nichols; Mr Peter H.E. Dwyer-Smith and Mr George X. Constantinidis.

The National Heart and Lung Institute

The National Heart and Lung Institute, University of London, is pleased to announce that, from January 1, 1995, its affiliate the Wynn Institute for Metabolic Medicine, to be known as the Wynn Department of Metabolic Medicine, has become a formal department of the National Heart and Lung Institute.



The organist Gillian Weir is 54 today

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the SHELLEY (Royal School for the Blind), will visit the school at 55-56 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, at 11.00. The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will attend a dinner for board members at Claridge's Hotel at 7.30.



The first British set of stamps dedicated solely to cats goes on sale today. The artist Elizabeth Blackadder featured her own three cats and those of friends in her Edinburgh neighbourhood for the watercolours

Christening

Mr Jean Gordon Sandford was christened by Father Andrew Hawes on Sunday, January 8, in the Chapel of Grimsby Castle, Lincolnshire. The godparents are: The Hon Alan Hare (for whom Baroness Widdowbury De Ereshy stood proxy), Lady Christie and Mrs Louise Flind.

Glyn School, Well

The Old Boys' Association Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on March 31 at the school. For further information contact Hon Sec Malcolm Lawther 081-234 6693.

Lecture

Wellington Foundation
Dr Alex Skula delivered the annual Hunterian/Wellington lecture at the Wellington Hospital, London, yesterday. Dr Arthur Levin, Chairman of the Wellington Foundation, presided. Dr Michael Dulake, President of the Hunterian Society, also spoke.

Latest wills

Major John Walkelyne Chandos-Pole, of Kirk Langley, Derbyshire, last night left an estate valued at £27,158 net. He left £3,000 to St Andrews Church, Knaresborough.

Dig uncovers forts to repel Viking invaders

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FORTIFICATIONS barring the Seine to Vikings attacking Paris have been uncovered near Rouen. Consisting of two forts on opposite banks, linked by a bridge which would obstruct the progress of longships upriver, the defences are thought to be the model for some of Alfred the Great's later countermeasures against the Vikings.

The site, at Pont de l'Arche, where the Seine and Eure meet just upstream from Rouen, has been studied for over 20 years by Dr David Hill of Manchester University. Last year's dig yielded evidence of a timber gatehouse. While the village of Pont de l'Arche and its walls survives largely intact on the south bank of the Seine, the northern enclosure has been badly damaged by industrial development on the site.

The large rectangular earthwork was built in about AD 860 by Charlemagne's grandson Charles the Bald, according to documentary evidence, and archaeomagnetic dating of burnt clay from the ramparts has confirmed its Carolingian date. The fort was burnt by Vikings in 875. This year, a stone reformation of the damaged bank was found. "This refacing is unique in France, but may provide clues to the origin of many similar examples found in England a generation later," Dr Hill said. "Pont de l'Arche could be the prototype for the English facing the same Viking fleets ten or twenty years later under Alfred the Great."

Alfred the Great built just such a double fort to block the River Lea near London in 892, where the Vikings encamped there, so that they could not bring their ships out. Buckingham and Hertford were also built on this pattern.

Appointments

Sir John Stays, a Lord Justice of Appeal, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, and Sir Philip Otton, a Justice of the High Court of Justice, to be a Lord Justice of Appeal in this place.

Mr John Flanagan will be joint district judge for the districts of the Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside County Courts and joint district judge in the District Registry of the High Court at Oldham and Rochdale from March 31.

Church news

The Rt Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, is to retire from August 31.

The Rev Sandra Lloyd, Assistant Curate, St John the Baptist, Nilton and St Mary and St Rhadagunde, Whitwell w. St Lawrence, Isle of Wight, will be Vicar, St Mary and St Rhadagunde, Whitwell w. St Lawrence, and Priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Nilton (Portsmouth).

The Rev Michelle Lockhart, until recently Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, Leigh (Manchester), now Assistant Chaplain (part-time), at Full Sutton Prison (York). The Rev Roy Pearson, Vicar, All Hallows, Tottenham; to be also Area Dean of East Haringey (London).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.T. Bartlett
and Miss C.B. Goford
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Bartlett, of Keston, Kent, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Jeremy Goford, of Battersea, and Mrs Diane Goford, of Cross Missenden, Bucks, Hampshire.

Mr L. Heyworth
and Miss F. Goodham
The engagement is announced between Laurence, younger son of Mr Patrick Heyworth and the late Mrs Unity Heyworth, of Kingston Magna, Dorset, and Tania, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Goodham, of Llydaly, Victoria, Australia.

Mr P.J. Hopkins
and Miss J.A. Every
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Hopkins, of Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs S.F. Every, of Crawley, Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr D. Lindsay
and Miss A. Bowden
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs James Lindsay, of Glasgow, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Bowden, of Kelvedon Hatch, Essex.

Flying Officer G.D.J. Lofthouse
and Miss P.M. Hanson
The engagement is announced between Flying Officer Gary D.J. Lofthouse, of Swansea, and Miss Philippa M. Hanson, BSc, daughter of Dr and Mrs P. Hanson, of York.

Mr A. McMin
and Miss G.E.L. Dunn
The engagement is announced between Angus, younger son of Mr David McMin, of Maldon, Essex, and George, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Derek Dunn, of Childs Hill, London.

Mr J.D. Marsh
and Miss M.E.J. Pfenderleith
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Marsh, of Orpington, Kent, and Melanie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Pfenderleith, of Farnborough, West Sussex.

Major J.L. Murray-Playfair
and Miss P.A. Rickard
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Charles Murray-Playfair, of Limalonges, France, and Pippa, daughter of Major and Mrs John Rickard, of Rhyl-y-Foel, Cwylwyd.

Mr N. Southard
and Miss H.J. Cooper
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of the late Joseph Alexander Southard, of Jersey, and of Mrs Anne Southard, of Gillingham, of Gillingham, Scotland, and Henrietta Jane, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Cooper, of Kensington, London.

Mr P.M. Wyllie
and Miss A.L. Clifford-Jones
The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Wyllie, of Goshall, Surrey, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Clifford-Jones, of Oakley, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr M.P. Longford
and Miss M.M. Malcolm
A service of blessing was held on Saturday, January 14, at St Peter's, Stratton-on-Avon, after the marriage at Moreton in the Marsh Register Office of Mr Mark P. Longford to Miss Frances Martha Malcolm.

University news

Cambridge
Jesus College elections
To Honorary Fellowship:
Lord Steward and Sir Eduardo Palazzi

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Leonard Fuchs, physician and botanist, Weimingen, Germany, 1901; Pedro Calderón de la Barca, dramatist and poet, Madrid, 1600; Thomas Fairfax, 3rd Baron Fairfax of Cameron, parliamentary commander in the Civil War, Denton, Yorkshire, 1612; Benjamin Franklin, statesman, scientist and printer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1706; George Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton, statesman, historian and poet, Hagley, Worcestershire, 1709; Vittorio Alfieri, poet, Piedmont, Italy, 1749; Sir James Hall, geologist, Dumfries, Lothian, 1761; Charles Keen, actor, Waterford, Co. Wexford, 1811; August Weismann, geneticist, Frankfurt am Main, 1834; David Lloyd George, Prime Minister, 1863-22; Manchester, 1863; Konstantin Stanislavsky, co-founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, 1863; David Ben-Gurion, 1st Prime Minister of Israel, 1883; Mack Sennett, film producer and creator of the Keystone Cops, Richmond, Quebec, 1880; Sir Compton Mackenzie, novelist, Hartlepool, 1883; Ronald Firbank, novelist, London, 1886.

DEATHS: John Ray, naturalist, Black Notley, Essex, 1705; Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th American President 1877-81, Fremont, Ohio, 1893; Charles Marie de Lisle, poet, Paris, 1894; Frederick William Myers, poet and co-founder of the Society of Psychical Research, Rome, 1901; Sir Francis Galton, explorer and anthropologist, Haslemere, Surrey, 1911; T.H. White, novelist, Pirbright, Wiltshire, 1964.

Capitan Cook's Resolution became the first ship to cross the Antarctic Circle, 1773.
The BBC introduced broadcast television, 1936.

Royal Society of St George

Mrs M. Mavis Linton has been elected Chairman of the Royal Society of St George and Mr W.R. Firth, vice-chairman.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS
<p>ANDREW WILSON - On Friday 13th January 1995, Andrew Wilson (Tony) died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>CLARKSON - On Friday 13th January 1995, Clarkson died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>COLLIE - On Friday 13th January 1995, Collie died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>CONSTABLE-MANWELL - On Friday 13th January 1995, Constable-Manwell died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>HULL - On Friday 13th January 1995, Hull died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>LE BLANC - On Friday 13th January 1995, Le Blanc died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>LOMAS - On Friday 13th January 1995, Lomas died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>MONTAGU - On Friday 13th January 1995, Montagu died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>WATSON - On Friday 13th January 1995, Watson died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>	<p>WILSON - On Friday 13th January 1995, Wilson died at home, aged 70. He was a member of the Royal Society of Medicine and a former member of the Royal Society of Arts. He was a devoted family man and a good friend. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and his children, John and Jane. He was cremated at St. Mary's Church, London, on Friday 13th January 1995.</p>

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL W. M. BROOMHALL

Major-General W. M. Broomhall, CB, DSO, OBE, Chief Engineer, Middle East Land Forces, 1949-51, died on January 13 aged 97. He was born on July 16, 1897.

"TUBBY" BROOMHALL, is reputed to have acquired his nickname as a prisoner of war in Colditz, where as senior British officer he was renowned for the forceful personality he displayed in the face of his captors. But he is even better remembered for one of the most ingenious escape attempts of the war which took place before he was transferred to Colditz.

This was at Oflag VIIIB in Eichstätt, Bavaria, where Broomhall's brilliant impersonation of a German general, ably supported by a meticulously created uniform, to back up the imposture, almost enabled him to walk out of the camp in broad daylight. If it had not been for the fact that Broomhall entered a little too wholeheartedly into his new role, he and his fellow escapees would certainly have got clear of Eichstätt, whatever the future might have held thereafter.

One of the ablest of his generation of Royal Engineer officers, it was Broomhall's great misfortune to be taken prisoner in France so early in the war, thus forfeiting the brilliant military career which should otherwise have been his.

William Maurice Broomhall was educated at St Paul's School, London, and RMA Woolwich where he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1915. He served with 301 Field Company RE on the Western Front from 1915 onwards and gained a reputation as an able tactician and for bravery. He was wounded twice.

He then saw active service in India during the North



Oflag VIIIB, Bavaria, 1943: after their failed escape attempt, Broomhall, second left, Pope, centre, and other members of the escape party in their German disguises

West Frontier campaigns of the early and late 1920s, being mentioned in dispatches and appointed OBE (military). He entered the Staff College, Camberley, in 1932, where his abilities as a staff officer were recognised by his posting as a Brigade Major to a Scottish infantry brigade, and then as GS02 Intelligence at the War Office.

Early in 1940 he became the GS01 of the 1st Armoured Division, which was sent to France via Cherbourg after the German offensive in the West had already begun. It was fed piecemeal into the fighting on the Somme on the southern side of the German breakthrough to the sea at Abbeville. Broomhall was captured during the chaos of the withdrawal on Cherbourg when France collapsed.

His attempted escape from the PoW camp at Eichstätt in

1943 was a minor epic. Several escapes from that camp had already been made by inmates disguised in German uniforms. Each escape made the guards more suspicious and so the rank of the escapees had to be increased to overawe them.

Broomhall had the figure, air of authority and age to make a convincing general — in appearance, but in nothing else, he was not unlike Lowe's pre-war cartoon of Colonel Blimp. He set out to emulate a German engineer general, accompanied by a likely staff of two civilian clerks of works, who would supposedly be visiting the camp to go into plans for its enlargement.

He and his party were to try to leave by a little-used back gate, ostensibly looking for further camp sites along the valley. In about a mile from

the gates of Oflag VIIIB they knew they would be able to get into a forest where they would be able to discard their uniforms and set off for freedom in the civilian clothes they would be wearing underneath.

The outfits were duly made under the supervision of Tubby's Savile Row tailor, who happened to be a prisoner with him. With the greatest ingenuity Red Cross blankets, bits of string and lengths of wire were all pressed into service to create uniform trousers, peaked caps and other necessary accoutrements.

On the day of the escape, Broomhall, accompanied by Lieutenant Lance Pope of the Royal Fusiliers and the other would-be escapees, set off, resplendent in a general's red tabs, Iron Cross and jackboots. He was not a fluent German speaker, but he had

rehearsed one sentence which he uttered in a powerfully authoritative voice — "Schnell — machen Sie das Tor auf!" ("Hurry up and get that gate open!")

Unfortunately this convincing display of bad temper set the guard who let them through to thinking it odd that he had not seen a general about the camp that day. When he checked with the main gate this suspicion was confirmed and a detail was sent out to pursue the escapees, who were recaptured before they reached the cover of the forest.

When told by the camp commandant that wearing enemy uniform was a military offence punishable by death, Broomhall replied that he was not wearing uniform but "fancy dress" made for him by his friends in the camp.

Transfer to Colditz was the reward for the bogus engineer general. There, such was the respect in which he was held by both the German camp staff and the British POWs that he was awarded the DSO in November 1945 for his outstanding leadership during the five years of captivity. For years afterwards, his comrades spoke with admiration of the support he had given them.

Soon after the war he became a real engineer general when he was appointed, in succession, Chief Engineer, Allied Armies in Italy, 1946; Chief Engineer, British Army of the Rhine, 1947; and Chief Engineer, Middle East, in 1948.

On his retirement from the Army in 1951, he became chairman and managing director of the Cellulose Development Corporation until 1972.

Tubby Broomhall remained a bachelor all his life. In his later years he lived with his cousin Susan Broomhall, who kept house for him.

DR R. E. BONHAM CARTER

Dr R. E. Bonham Carter, Consulting Physician to The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, died on December 18 aged 84. He was born at Portlough, Argyll, on August 27, 1910.



WHEN Dick Bonham Carter returned to Great Ormond Street after the war he set out to improve the outcome for children born with heart disease and aimed to establish units specifically for treating this group of children. But Bonham Carter's legacy was more than just this; it is represented by a living institution of humanitarian importance and international reputation.

Together with David Watson, he founded and developed the cardiothoracic unit at Great Ormond Street which pioneered so many of the techniques we take for granted today. He achieved this with a single-minded dedication and a powerful intellect that rapidly elevated the unit to the position of world leader in paediatric cardiology. It became a model to which many units throughout the world have looked.

A modest man, he eschewed the limelight except where his work made this unavoidable; he preferred instead the life of a family man where his generosity and sense of fun will be irreplaceable. To him the cardiothoracic unit was part of his extended family. He treated all those who worked within it, nurses, assistants, domestic staff, junior doctors as equals — he always had time for, and listened to, everyone. He delighted in working with children and gained their confidence easily with his sense of fun, treating their parents with a respect that still lives in their memories, no matter how delicate a problem it was necessary to discuss.

Richard Bonham Carter was the younger son of Captain Alfred Erskine Bonham Carter and Margaret Emily Malcolm. While his elder brother Christopher pursued a naval career, rising to the rank of rear-admiral, the interests of the younger brother were always academic.

He was educated at Elstree Preparatory School and Clifton College where he shone both in the classroom and on the sports field. He represented the college at rugby, cricket and, outstandingly, at athletics.

Throughout his career Cornish displayed a clear and incisive mind and, on any problem (and there were plenty) he could be counted on to set out the relevant considerations and to express his views forcefully, economically and accurately, without fear or favour. He could on occasion show some asperity, at any rate towards his superiors and those of equal rank, but he could also show great kindness to those working for him.

As Receiver, Cornish was responsible for a number of major construction projects for the police, including the development of the Hendon complex and the provision of support headquarters at Lambeth — and also the acquisition of the building in Victoria Street which is now the Metropolitan Police headquarters.

There was some controversy about this project at the time, but in the long run the terms he struck, which involved obtaining a part equity of the new building, have turned out to be amply justified.

Cornish always commanded a respect for his obvious intelligence, but to those who saw him only at a distance he could appear to be a somewhat sombre and formidable figure. Those who knew him, though, were aware of a quite different person.

He was blessed with a most happy marriage, ending with his wife's death in 1991. They had two daughters, who survive him.

ies. He went up to Peterhouse, Cambridge, taking a degree in Natural Sciences, and was awarded an athletics Blue for the long jump. He completed his clinical training at St Thomas' Hospital in 1936.

After house appointments there he obtained the MRCP unusually early in 1938. He then went to Great Ormond Street as a house physician with the intention of a brief look at paediatrics. But paediatrics rekindled an interest that dominated the remainder of his medical career, and was consolidated by his appointment as resident assistant physician in the same year.

At the outbreak of war he was appointed to work for the Emergency Medical Service Section 4 HQ. However, his interest in children's health was already established, and in 1940 he moved to the Ministry of Health, where he organised the provision of medical services to children evacuated from London.

In 1942 he enlisted as a medical officer in the First Airborne Division, rising to the rank of major, and to being Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services. He served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy with the 4th Parachute Brigade under Sir John Hackett. He was mentioned in dispatches in relation to the 1944 Arnhem landings, where — typically having elected to stay behind to care for the wounded after the final withdrawal — he was captured. Although he rarely spoke of this experience, it affected him deeply. It is significant that the only personal memorabilia ever on display in his house were cartoons of himself affectionately drawn by his fellow PoWs.

He was liberated in 1945 and returned to work briefly

again at the Ministry of Health, where he assisted Sir Francis Fraser in restoring the interrupted careers of doctors involved in the war. He resumed his sessions at Great Ormond Street, returning in 1947, first as assistant to (later Sir) Alan Moncrieff, the first professor at the newly-established Institute of Child Health.

His interest in paediatric cardiology intensified at this time, so much so that in 1947 he was appointed physician at Great Ormond Street with a special interest in this developing discipline. The following year he joined the consultant staff in the Children's Department of University College Hospital. He relinquished this appointment in 1965 to devote all his time to the developing cardiothoracic unit at Great Ormond Street.

Two major events occurred in 1950: he was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the surgeon David Watson joined the Great Ormond Street staff. Together they established a partnership which Bonham Carter always referred to as that of "plumber" and "plumber's mate". Their joint work established the cardiothoracic unit in 1954, and six beds were allocated. This partnership remained intense until their respective retirements.

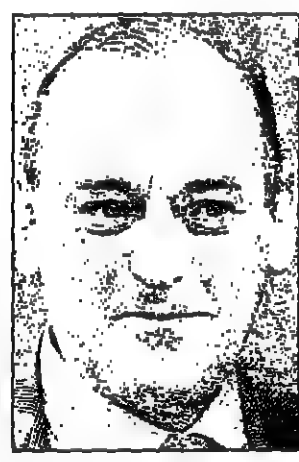
The foundations were well laid academically for the continuing expansion of the unit and Bonham Carter's determination and perseverance with the Department of Health allowed the unit to become one of the most active to maintain an integrated medical surgical and nursing programme. Unfortunately, construction of the fabric was beset by miscalculation and the cardiac wing at Great Ormond Street did not become operational until 1968.

Dick Bonham Carter was a quiet, contemplative man with an enormous knowledge derived from his extensive reading and his own personal experience. Although born into a political family, he remained essentially apolitical himself, but would offer unsolicited support to any cause he considered just. He despised pomposity and cant — who else would greet an examination candidate from under the table where he was entertaining a child patient?

He married Margaret Stao in 1946 and she and three daughters survive him.

JULIAN BELFRAGE

Julian Belfrage, theatrical agent, died from cancer on December 28 aged 60. He was born on February 19, 1934.



THE career of Julian Belfrage might have taken a different turn had he not left the cast of *Road Like a Dove* in 1958 to join the theatrical agents MCA. He had understudied Peter Barkworth since the play opened the previous year and a few days after Belfrage had taken up his new job, Barkworth raised a performance. Only once did Belfrage return to acting and that was when he played the part of Vanessa Redgrave's husband in the John Schlesinger film *Yanks* in 1979.

In a career spanning more than 35 years as a theatrical agent, Belfrage built up an impressive cast list of some of the best-known actors and actresses including Dame Judi Dench and her husband Michael Williams, Daniel Day-Lewis, John Hurt, Ian Holm and his wife Penelope Wilton.

Julian Rochfort Belfrage was the only child of Bruce Belfrage, an actor, and his actress wife Joan Henley. Julian Belfrage went to school at Canford. He had a natural aptitude for sports and played hockey for Dorset, was a useful cricketer and a

keen golfer who, with his professional partner, won the Pro-Am tournament at Sandy Lane in Barbados in 1991.

After two years' National Service in the Royal Navy he went to the Central School of Speech and Drama. Among his contemporaries was Judi Dench, whom he represented from the start of her career. He built up a very close working relationship with his actors and actresses.

Belfrage was not the popular idea of a theatrical agent and seldom "talked shop" out of the office, particularly in relation to his own business, and was more at home in the turf club than at the Garrick. A very good-looking man with vivid blue eyes, he would prefer to regale his friends

with the chances of a novice steeplechaser at Sandown Park the following day, a greyhound at Wimbledon or an outsider for the U.S. Masters.

His love of a sporting occasion prompted him to take a cricket team to Ireland in the 1960s to play against an Irish friend's XI. Belfrage led him to believe that he would be including a few cricketers stars of the day, so the Irish captain fielded a strong side. The Irish batted first and declared with something over 200 on the board for the loss of two wickets. Belfrage's side which was made up of an assortment of racing and drinking friends was all out for 11. Belfrage used to relate this story and end up — "and four of those were byes".

National Hunt Racing was his passion and he owned a number of successful steeplechasers — all trained by Nick Gaselee at Lambourn, including the appropriately named Leading Artist, which won a 100-1 Pucks Place (by Midsummer Night) and Titus Andronicus. Although desperately ill, he bravely attended Nottingham races in December 17 and was rewarded by the victory of his newest horse, Spinnaker.

He is survived by his second wife, Victoria van Mooyland, and by two sons from his first marriage to Gilly Pratt.

W. H. CORNISH



W. H. Cornish, CB, Home Office civil servant and Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, 1961-67, died on January 7 aged 89. He was born on January 2, 1906.

A KEEN sportsman in his youth, William Herbert Cornish had a distinguished career in the Home Office. As Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District he was responsible for the finances and property of the Metropolitan

Police at a time when that force was undergoing major changes.

Cornish's father was a Methodist Minister in Ireland. He was educated in Dublin at Wesley College and Trinity College. His academic record was outstanding. He took pride in the unusual feat of winning a scholarship in his opening year at Trinity, and his first-class degree gained him its gold medal.

He joined the Home Office in 1930 and, after a lengthy spell in the general depart-

ment, where he became the acknowledged expert on electoral law, went on to work in other areas, including the fire service division during the wartime period of the National Fire Service and the aliens and nationality division at a time when there were the first stirrings about the problem of unrestricted immigration.

But his main experience lay with the police department. After two previous spells there he was made its head in 1955; he acquired an exhaustive

knowledge of the service and enjoyed a high reputation among its members.

In 1955 he was appointed CB. He became Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District in 1961 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1967, when he carried out some part-time work for the Home Office, in particular in preparing a weighty memorandum of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

Throughout his career Cornish displayed a clear and incisive mind and, on any problem (and there were plenty) he could be counted on to set out the relevant considerations and to express his views forcefully, economically and accurately, without fear or favour. He could on occasion show some asperity, at any rate towards his superiors and those of equal rank, but he could also show great kindness to those working for him.

As Receiver, Cornish was responsible for a number of major construction projects for the police, including the development of the Hendon complex and the provision of support headquarters at Lambeth — and also the acquisition of the building in Victoria Street which is now the Metropolitan Police headquarters.

There was some controversy about this project at the time, but in the long run the terms he struck, which involved obtaining a part equity of the new building, have turned out to be amply justified.

Cornish always commanded a respect for his obvious intelligence, but to those who saw him only at a distance he could appear to be a somewhat sombre and formidable figure. Those who knew him, though, were aware of a quite different person.

He was blessed with a most happy marriage, ending with his wife's death in 1991. They had two daughters, who survive him.

FLATSHARE

WANTED: Clean, modern, single room, preferably in central London, near transport, for a single person. Tel: 011 219 0010.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

CONSTITUTIONS on flights & hotels. LISA & Associates, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 9JL. Tel: 011 219 0010.

FOR SALE

WEDDING SUITS, MORNING SUITS, DINNER SUITS, EVENING TAIL SUITS. BARKER & CO. 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 9JL. Tel: 011 219 0010.

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RENTAL: 1st floor, 1st floor, 1st floor. Tel: 011 219 0010.

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SERVICES

SERVICES: 1st floor, 1st floor, 1st floor.

Reasons to be cheerful this year

BY ALEC PARFETT

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

Andrew says: "At least at the moment when customers find us, I know they are serious about spending money" — a luxury not always experienced by his off-the-shelf rivals in the high street. "There they are so handy that in winter their customers mostly go in just for a good warm," he says.

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Eat, drink and be merry for the price of Britain's best quality newspaper — and that's just the starter



Lazeez in Brompton Road, SW7, is one of many participating London restaurants

How to treat a friend to a great meal for only 20p

There may be no such thing as a free lunch — but with *The Times* you can take a friend for a meal that will cost the same as a copy of Britain's best quality daily newspaper. *The Times* has got together with Transmedia, the international restaurant card, to offer one meal for 20p when two or more people dine, as an introduction to a scheme that could also save you 25 per cent every time you eat out.

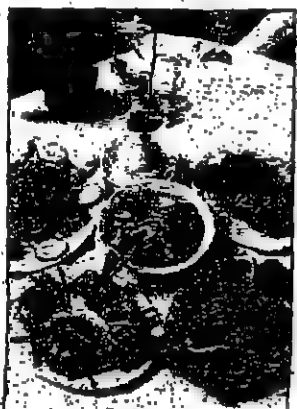
Times readers who already hold a Visa, Delta or MasterCard can participate, and enjoy not only the 20p meal, but also six months' free trial membership of Transmedia (normally £35 a year). A worldwide organisation, Transmedia pre-purchases food and wine credits at special prices from participating restaurants. When a member pays for a meal with the card, the savings are passed on to him or her.

If, for example, your total restaurant bill for a meal for four is £100 (excluding VAT and tip), £25 will appear as a credit against that amount when you receive your regular card statement. It's like getting the fourth meal free.

If the diner is buying a meal for 20p through *The Times* promotion, the cost of one meal worth up to £20 will be reduced by £19.80.

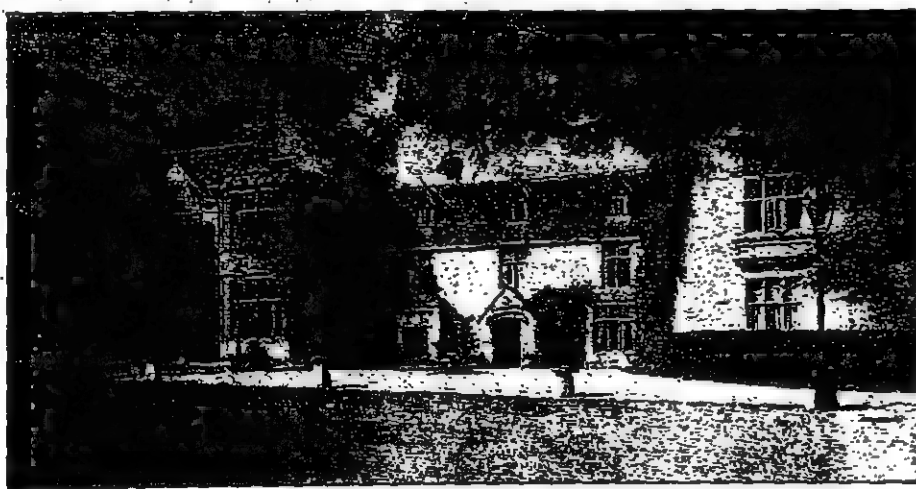
With your membership pack you will receive a Transmedia directory, which lists more than 450 participating restaurants in Britain, 3,500 in America and many more in other countries. The directory is constantly updated and a new edition is posted to card-holders every six weeks. You can use your card as often as you like, for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Among the participating restaurants to be found in Britain are:

LONDON
Addax, Victoria Rd, W8
Alfred, 245 Shaftesbury Ave, WC2
Anchor, 34 Park St, SE1
Ashtree, 13/15 Leadenhall Market, EC3
Avenue West Eleven, 157 Notting Hill Gate, W11
Baboon, Jason's Court, 76 Wigmore St, W1
Bakara, 4 Wood Lane, W12
Beauchamps, 25 Leadenhall Market, EC3
Bengal Lancer, 253 Kentish Town Rd, NW5
Best Of Both Worlds Cafe, Britannia Inner-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, W1
Bijou, 44 Chiswick Park, EC1
Bliss, 71 Great Queen St, WC2
Bistro, Biscuit, Montague Hotel, 12/20 Montague St, WC1
Bizarro, 18/22 Cranley Rd, W2
El Bazar, 8-9 Blacklands Terrace, SW3
Au Boite St Jean, 122 St John's Wood High St, NW8
Bicycle Bicycle Club, 95 Nightingale Lane, SW12
Le Boulanger, 7-9 Battersea Rise, SW11
Brasserie Jules, 39 Upper St, N1
The Brasserie, 11 Belgrave, SW17
The Brasserie, 46 Upper Richmond Rd West, SW14
Bubbles, 16 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1
Buzabong Tree, 112 Chiswick Walk, SW10
Cafe Italian Des Amis Du Vin, 19 Charlotte St, W1
Cafe Lazeez, 95-95 Brompton Rd, SW7



A great deal on a plate

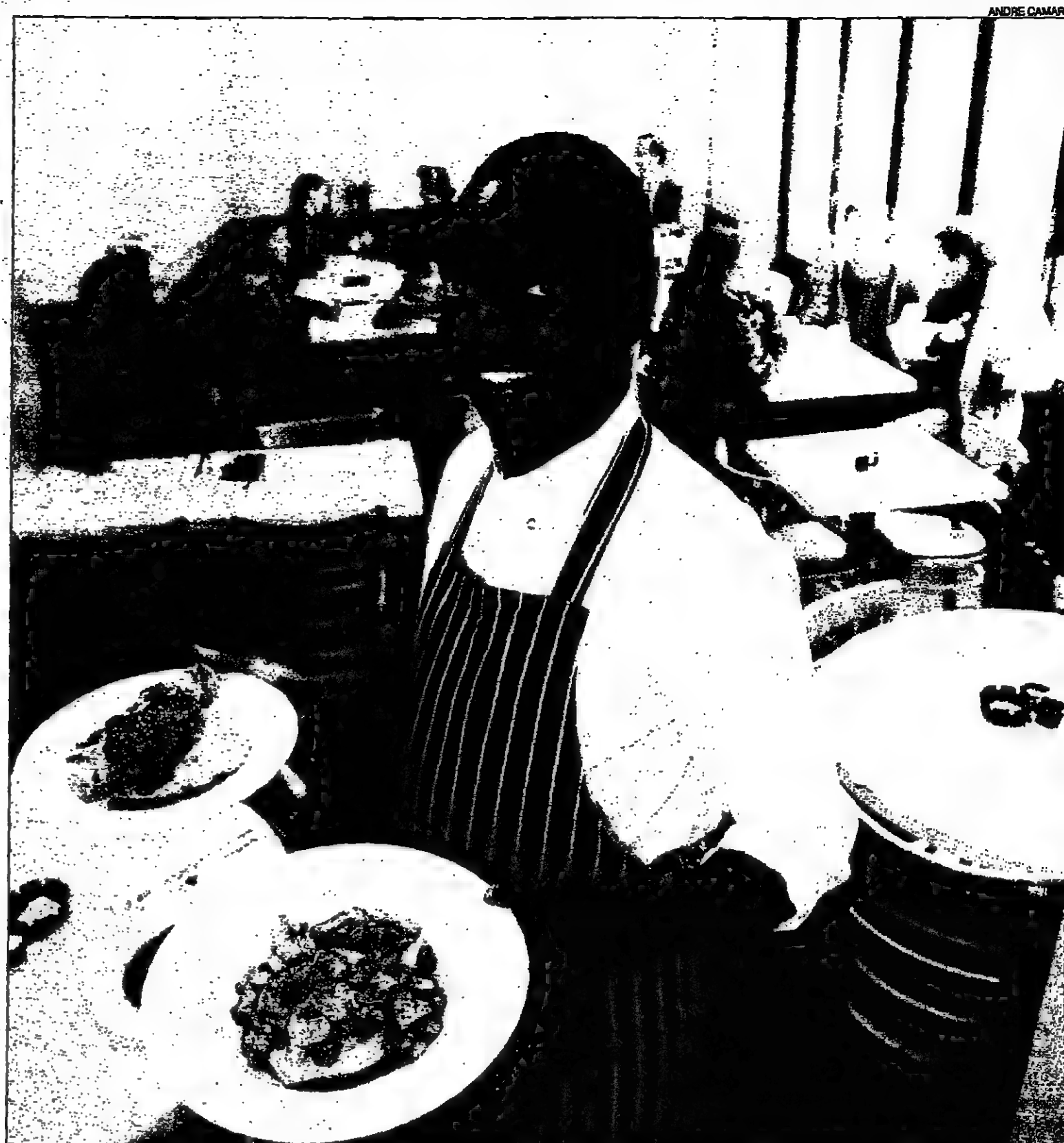
Cafe St Pierre Restaurant, 20 Clerkenwell Green, EC1
Café Restaurant and JCV Bar, 15-17 Marylebone Lane, W1
Candian Grill, 15 Steward St, E1
Carragee, 43 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1
Cavendish Restaurant, 31 Jermyn St, SW1
Chateau Restaurant, Mayfair Inter-Continental Hotel, Station St, W1



The imposing country-house exterior of Lords of the Manor, in rural Gloucestershire

Chester, 359 The Mall, Upper St, N1
Coco, 222 Munster Rd, SW6
Clementine's, Churchill Inter-Continental Hotel, 30 Portman Square, W1
Crown's, 481 Upper Richmond Rd West, East Sheen, SW14
Cuba Libre, 72 Upper St, N1
Da Mario, 63 Endell St, WC2
Dagmar, 83 Bayham St, NW1
Cafe Delicacy, 3 Delicacy St, NW1
Ebony St Wine Bar, 139 Ebury St, SW1
English Garden, 10 Lincoln St, SW3
English House, 3 Milner St, SW3
L'Enfer, 30 Charlotte St, W1
Parringtons Restaurant, 41 Parrington High St, EC4
Pleasure, 7-12 Half Moon St, W1
Pleasure, 83 East Hill, Wandsworth, SW18
Gay Hussar, 2 Creek St, W1
Gilbert's, 2 Exhibition Rd, SW7
Glasters, 4 Hollywood Rd, SW10
Gourmet Pizza Co., 18-20 Mackenzie Walk, E14
Goya, 34 Lupus Rd, SW1
Hamiltons, 28 Leadenhall Market, EC3
Hillaire, 68 Old Brompton Rd, SW7
Horrocks, 3 Blandford St, W1
Humble, 20 Belgrave Rd, SW17
Il Sorriso, 95 Charlotte St, W1
Isidoro, 10 Lime St, EC3
Isuzu, 57 Kew Rd, Richmond, TW9
Jakes, 2 Hollywood Rd, SW10
Ken Lo's Memories of China, 67-69 Ebury St, SW1
Kym's, 70-71 Wilton Rd, SW1
Lindsay House, 21 Romilly St, W1
Magna's Brasserie, 65a Long Acre, WC2
Mange Tout, 12 Royal Parade, Blackheath Village, SE3
Le Metro, 28 Basil St, SW3
Montpeliano, 13 Montpelier St, SW7

The Naked Turtle, 305 Upper Richmond Rd West, SW14
Nayab, 309 New Kings Rd, SW6
Oriental Gourmet, 33 Great Queen Street, WC2
Orson's, 91 Jermyn St, SW1
Paflo, 175 Westbourne Grove, W1
Palma, 39 King St, WC2
Pasha, 301 Upper St, N1
The Pica, 31 Parson's Green Lane, SW6
Pisagora, 106 Kew Rd, Richmond, TW9
Ploy Ploy, 221-222 Brutfield St, E1
Le Rendezvous, 11-12 Steward St, E1
Le Renoir, 222 Fulham Rd, SW10
Rhapsody, 25 Richmond Way, W14
La Rive Gauche, 61 The Cat, SE1
Rockdole, 29 Lavender Hill, SW11
The Room At The Halcrow, 126 Holland Park Ave, W1
Rowley's, 113 Jermyn St, SW1
San Frediano, 62 Fulham Rd, SW3
S.W. Baker, 5 Fountain Square, 123 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1
Sydney Brasserie, 31-32 Battersea Square, SW11
Tamarind, 20 Queen St, W1
Taste Of Raj, 130 Upper Richmond Rd West, East Sheen, SW14



Robert Gutteridge, chef at Alfred in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, whose skill with English cooking delighted *Times* restaurant critic Jonathan Meades

SOUTHEAST

Bryer's, Old Schoolhouse, Stone St, Odsey, Surrey
Café De Paris Restaurant, 35 Castle St, Guildford, Surrey
La Cremona, The Square, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
Dickens, The Green, Wetherfield, Essex
Hunters, 5 Jewry St, Winchester, Hampshire
Jack Fuller's, near Brighton, East Sussex
Moorlanders, High St, Alfriston, East Sussex
Pink Geronimo, Station Rd, Melbourn, Hertfordshire



The imposing country-house exterior of Lords of the Manor, in rural Gloucestershire

Chesters, 359 The Mall, Upper St, N1
Coco, 222 Munster Rd, SW6
Clementine's, Churchill Inter-Continental Hotel, 30 Portman Square, W1
Crown's, 481 Upper Richmond Rd West, East Sheen, SW14
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Mange Tout, 12 Royal Parade, Blackheath Village, SE3
Le Metro, 28 Basil St, SW3
Montpeliano, 13 Montpelier St, SW7

NORTH

Alexander's, 2 Rufus Court, Chester, Cheshire
Avanti, 47 Derby St, Ormskirk, Lancashire
Brasserie St Pierre, 51-63 Prince St, Manchester
Coppell Moore, 31 Preston Rd, Coppull Moor, Chorley, Lancashire
The Forge, The Blacksmith's Arms, Main St, Macclesfield, Cheshire
Gaylord, Amethyst House, Spring Gardens, Manchester
New Peking Restaurant, 85 Eastbank St, Southport, Lancashire
Nansens Hall, Tarporley Rd, Sandiway, Cheshire
Sherlock Holmes, Water St, Manchester
Wenters, 15 West Lane, Haworth, West Yorkshire

MIDLANDS

The Palace, Castle Ashby, Northampton, Northants
The Feathers, Market St, Woodstock, Oxford
Fields, 64 Upper Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
Fischer's, at Baslow Hall, Calver Rd, Baslow, Derbyshire
Old Parsnaye, High Olney, Staffordshire
Shingle Pines, 214 Broad St, Birmingham
Whisper-In Hotel, Market Place, Oakham, Leics

SCOTLAND

Consort, Roxborough Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh
L'Anberge, 56 St Mary's, Edinburgh, EH1
Le Chamberlain, 19-21 George St, Edinburgh
Les Parisiens, 144 High St, Edinburgh
One Devonshire, Gardens, 1 Devonshire Gardens, Glasgow

Your questions answered

Q. What will the offer save me?
A. This depends on the price of your meal and how regularly you dine out. What we can guarantee is that by collecting four of the six tokens *The Times* will be printing you will receive all the normal benefits of membership of the Transmedia Card, including a 25 per cent discount on the food and wine portion (excluding tips and VAT) of your meal every time you use the card at participating restaurants. In addition you will enjoy free Transmedia membership for the first six months — and receive an extra credit for a second member of your party so that a guest may receive a meal worth up to £20 for only 20p the first time you use your card, provided this is before the end of February.

Q. How do I use the card?
A. When you pay your bill, simply present the Transmedia Card, just as you would any credit card.

Q. How will I be billed for the transaction?
A. The charge slip for the full amount will be sent to Transmedia by the restaurant for billing to your pre-selected Visa, MasterCard or Delta account. A corresponding transaction will also be processed for the 25 per cent saving on the food and drink total, as well as the credit adjustment to give one guest a £20 meal for 20p the first time you use your card.

Q. For how long is the card valid?
A. For a period of 12 months, for which there is a membership fee of £35. *Times* readers who take up the offer will benefit from free membership for the first six months, and there is no obligation to continue your membership for the second six months.

Q. How often can I use the card?
A. As often as you like.

Q. Must I notify restaurants in advance that I intend to use the card?
A. Not in most cases, although making a reservation is always advisable. However, if your party will number seven or more people your reservations must be made in advance on your behalf by Transmedia. To make a reservation simply call Transmedia on the appropriate number in the directory you will be sent.

Q. How do I obtain a Transmedia Card?
A. You can apply today for the normal benefits of the card. But only by collecting four of the six tokens that will appear in *The Times* will you be eligible for the exclusive offer

of a £20 meal for 20p and six months' free membership. To qualify you must already have an appropriate credit card, and pass a standard status check of your account through normal purchase authorisation procedures. You will need to authorise Transmedia to bill you for any qualifying restaurant transactions through your selected credit card account.

Q. Can someone else use my card?
A. No. However, Transmedia will issue an additional card at no extra cost.

Q. What if I am not satisfied with the service?
A. Transmedia offers a money-back guarantee and will refund your membership fee at any time provided you have used the card at least once.

Terms and conditions

● Readers wishing to take advantage of the £20 meal for 20p offer and six months' free Transmedia Card membership must include four of the six tokens that will appear in *The Times* until January 23 with their application.
● Should you choose to continue your membership after the six-month free period the annual fee is £35.
● Card holders may cancel at any time, in writing, and by returning the card to Transmedia.
● To participate readers must have a valid Visa, MasterCard or Delta Card and pass a standard status check of your account through normal purchase authorisation.
● The Transmedia Card entitles holders to a 25 per cent saving on food and beverages (excluding VAT and tips) in participating restaurants, listed in the directory posted to each member every six weeks.

● To use your card select a restaurant from the directory. Present your Transmedia Card at the end of the meal and sign for the full amount. Transmedia will charge your underlying Visa, MasterCard or Delta Card for the full amount of the bill and process a corresponding credit for 25 per cent.
● Participating readers who use their card for the first time before February 28 for a meal with two or more people will receive a further credit of on their statement for £19.80 — a full meal for 20p.
● Application forms with four differently numbered tokens attached should be sent to: *The Times*/Transmedia Promotion, 11 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LB. Applicants who wish to apply for the Transmedia Card without tokens can do so by ringing 0800 716691.
● Please allow seven days for receipt of your card.

HOW TO APPLY

Today we print the first of six 20p dining tokens. Further tokens will appear every day until next Monday. Collect any four of the six tokens and send them with the application form to the address below. In order to obtain your £20 meal for 20p you must have a Transmedia card. You are only eligible for a Transmedia card if you already hold a valid Visa, MasterCard or Delta card. The 20p meal must be taken before the end of February, 1995.

APPLICATION FORM

Please fill in and return to:

TRANS MEDIA
Transmedia UK Plc,
11 St. James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LB
Tel: 0171-930 0700
Fax: 0171-930 2868

Please complete using block capitals as card should appear.

Mr/Ms/Other _____ Date of Birth _____

First Name(s) _____

Surname _____

Home address _____

Postcode _____

Home phone _____

Business name _____

Job title _____

Business address _____

Postcode _____

Correspondence to ☐ Home ☐ Business ☐

Name of additional authorised user _____

(no extra charge)

VISA/MasterCard/Delta Account Number (delete as applicable)

Expiry Date

I hereby authorise Transmedia UK Plc or its assignee to debit the above listed VISA/ MasterCard/Delta account directly for all restaurant charges incurred by me or an authorised user and for my annual membership fee (currently £35) on expiry of my 6 months FREE trial period (if applicable) unless I notify you in writing otherwise. I understand all restaurant charges (other than service, tip and VAT) incurred by me, or an authorised user, will be offset by a 25% credit when being debited to my credit card account. I recognise the Transmedia Card is the property of the issuer and will be returned to me upon request.

Signature _____ Date _____

You may receive details about offers which may be of interest to you.

Tick here if you do not wish to receive this information. ☐

NEWS

Rail sell-off targets abandoned

The Government has been forced to abandon its financial targets for rail privatisation after warnings that they threatened to wreck the sale.

It emerged last night that Treasury demands that Railtrack achieve an eight per cent profit on the track and signalling equipment it owns have been swept aside after a pressure from Bob Horton, its chairman, and calculations by John Swift, the rail regulator. Pages 1, 2, 10

Russia calls summit to appease West

Russia has signalled that it wanted to repair its damaged relations with the West over Chechnya by inviting President Clinton to a summit meeting in Moscow this spring. But the White House, dismayed by Russia's savage campaign, declined to say whether Mr Clinton would accept. Pages 1, 11

Top pay taskforce

The chairman of Marks & Spencer, Sir Richard Greenbury, is to lead a City taskforce to regulate executive salaries after the series of disputes over senior industrialists' pay. Page 1

Lorry turned back

A lorry taking 600 sheep to the docks at Brightlingsea, Essex, was turned back after a crowd of more than 1,000 animal rights protesters managed to overwhelm it. Page 1

Officer 'bullied'

A young second lieutenant was subjected to "humiliating bullying" by fellow officers in the Royal Horse Artillery, the High Court was told. Page 3

Health law flaws

The stabbing to death of a therapist by a schizophrenic patient exposed fundamental flaws in the mental health laws, an independent report has said. Page 5

Lloyd Webber payout

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has agreed to pay the actress Faye Dunaway substantial compensation for dropping her from the American production of his musical *Sunset Boulevard*. Page 4

Parkhurst chief

A former deputy governor at Parkhurst has been appointed to run the top-security jail from which two murderers and an arsonist escaped. Page 9

Rescued Reliant back on the road

Reliant, maker of the three-wheel cars made famous by BBC's *Only Fools and Horses*, has been saved by its next-door neighbours. The property developers decided that the company could not be allowed to die after the receivers were called, so they bought the site and leased it to a company which intends to turn the business around. Page 7

Vaccine surplus

Nearly three million doses of the measles vaccine remain unused after the Government's campaign last autumn because of a blunder over how much would be needed. Page 8

EC emergency

Jacques Santer, the President-designate of the European Commission, has called an emergency meeting to discuss the European Parliament veto threat over the new commission. Page 13

Italian optimism

Financial markets soared as Lamberto Dini, named Prime Minister-designate last week, tried to put together Italy's 54th postwar Government. Page 13

Russian loan threat

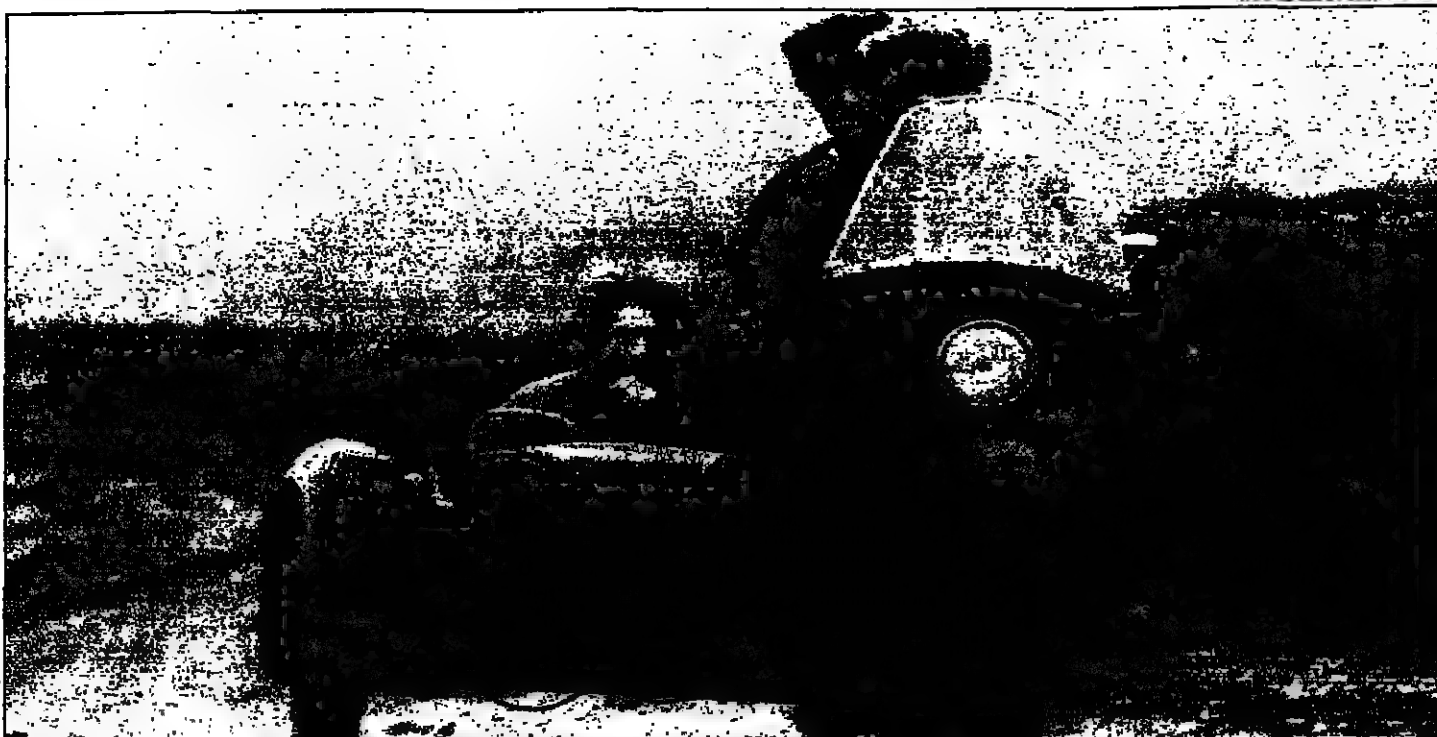
Russia's bungled five-week incursion into Chechnya may have cost the Moscow Government a massive International Monetary Fund loan. Page 11

Mexican fears

Mexicans have reacted with a mixture of gratitude and anxiety to the offer of a financial rescue by the United States to save their struggling economy. Page 12

Peking migrants

The flow of unemployed Chinese peasants from the countryside to "villages" on the outskirts of Peking appears to be outside the control of the central authorities. Page 12



Chechen civilians escape yesterday from fierce fighting near the village of Butan, 30 miles southwest of Grozny. Page 11

BUSINESS

Interest rates: Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England has tried to calm fears of sharply higher interest rates but said they would not rule out further increases to keep inflation in check. Page 23

Jobs go: South West Water is to shed 400 jobs over the next 15 months and is taking a £30 million charge to pay for the company's restructuring. The measures will include the closure of the laboratory in Truro that monitors the quality of drinking water. Page 24

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 28.4 to 3,076.7, given encouragement in a late rally by a brisk start on Wall Street. The pound rose 0.7 cents to \$1.57 but fell 60 pence to DM2.3990. Page 26

SPORTS

Cricket: India A collapsed to 83 for seven in their second innings, a lead of only 94, in the first international match against England A in Bangalore. Page 44

Football: Fears that Mark Hughes's career were threatened by the knee injury he suffered while scoring for Manchester United against Newcastle proved to be premature. Page 44

Tennis: The opening day of the Australian Open brought defeat for two faces of the past, Pat Cash and Mats Wilander, and victory for one of the future, Martina Hingis. Page 44

Rugby union: South Africa sacked Jannie Engelbrecht as national team manager four months before the World Cup. Page 40

ENTERTAINMENT

End Greene Waldholtz: Martin Fletcher meets the new Republican congresswoman from Utah, dubbed the "Mormon Margaret Thatcher". Page 15

Taking the strain: Why shouldn't schoolchildren be given stress counselling, asks Nigella Lawson. Page 15

CULTURE AND ARTS

Meningitis nightmare: Jeremy Laurence tells of a toddler's fight for survival. Page 14

LAW

Sure thing: Juries would benefit from an explanation of what lawyers mean by "reasonable doubt". Page 31



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

SUMMER OF '95
Iain R. Webb on men, super-cool men and fashion, 1950s style

SILENT NOTE
Any woman passing Alan Coren would be quite safe: he can't whistle



COLUMNS

The golf's the thing: After the success of *An Evening with Gary Lineker*, another football play hits London this week. Can *Fewer Pitches*, the memoirs of an Arsenal fan, woo the crowds from Highbury to the West End? Page 37

Pleasure principle: At the South Bank, nine rising women artists are featured in a new exhibition called "It's a Pleasure". Page 39

Hindemith honoured: The composer Paul Hindemith, long written off as the stolid worthy of inter-war German music, has been reassessed following British premieres of three of his saucy youthful operas. Page 38

Ghastly puppets: The London International Mime Festival has opened with a Swedish puppet version of Strindberg's *The Ghost Sonata*. Page 37

THE PAPERS

Bill Clinton is right to use the enormous resources of the United States to help Mexico and Congress is right to support him. A financial panic is like a fire burning out of control. — *The Washington Post*

The UN Security Council was right not to ease economic sanctions against Iraq last week. While Iraq has inched closer to compliance with UN strictures on weapons of mass destruction, it has not yet crossed the goal line. — *The New York Times*

Preview: Four convicted bigamists come before the cameras and tell all. *Network First: Love, Lies and Bigamy* (TV 10.40pm). Review: Matthew Bond on the ghastly Palmore family from *Signs and Wonders* and why he just has to know more. Page 43

Local difficulties

Sir John Bannham's Local Government Commission has proved one of the most complex — and useful — inquiries into the state of the nation of recent times. Page 17

Dini's shadows

The challenges for the new government created by Italy's political condition are too great to be resolved in a few months. Page 17

Team spirits

Andy Cole is a fine player. But his £7 million price tag has far more to do with his birthplace than his talents as a striker. Page 17

BERNARD LEVIN

There is still time for Tony Blair to get out of Labour politics and get into something much more agreeable and pleasant — for instance, shovelling pig-will. Page 16

WOODROW WYATT

Labour's leaders are mostly ignorant of the strength and value of the Lords. They are befuddled by the ostensible imperfections of its haphazard composition. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The Tory truce is fragile and the Government is not about to become suddenly popular. But Mr Major has at least a respite, a chance both to look beyond immediate troubles and to exploit Labour's difficulties. Page 10

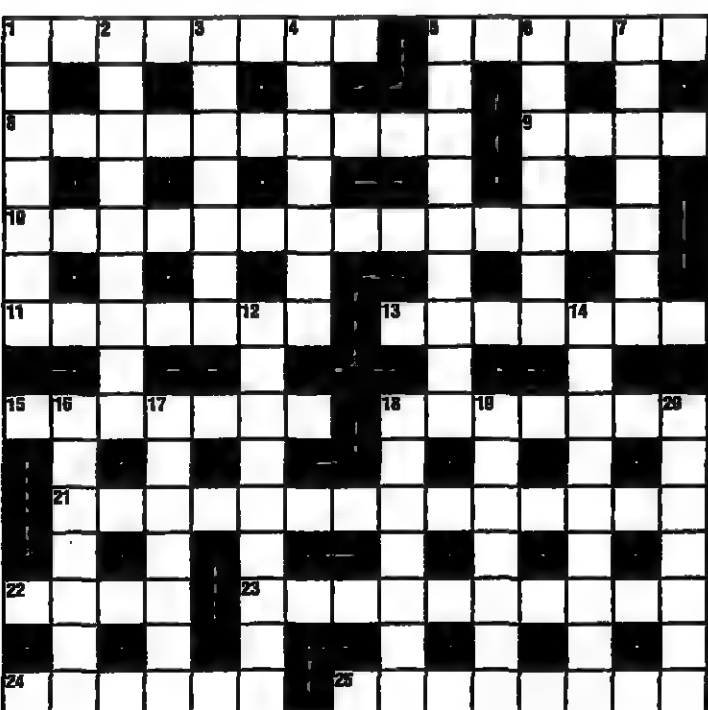
OBITUARIES

Major-General W. M. Broomhall, who organised a celebrated wartime POW camp escape attempt: Richard Bonham Carter, specialist in childhood heart disease; W. H. Cornish, former Metropolitan Police Receiver; Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Haythornthwaite, conservationist. Page 19

LETTERS

Eton chaplain and "socialist" Church of England; rationed care and the NHS; commuting in the age of Pullman cars. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,754



- ACROSS**
- Ruse failed — sack is certain (4-4).
 - At home with wife who's in confinement (6).
 - Sucker may like this name in investment warrant (10).
 - Rainwear produced by plant (4).
 - Composer, having gravity, risks no mistakes (4,10).
 - Classify college leaver not top drawer (7).
 - Dramatised reconstruction made by interested group (7).
 - Emphasise the times are normal (7).
 - Early bishop repulsed Jew (7).
 - London stadium where England beat Norway once (8,6).
 - Letter from abroad for girl from the Marches (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,753

ATHENS RELATION
H N U E I M O
H I S T O R I C P R O P E R
N R L O C E N
A G R A R I A N D A H I A
A N N S I L L
B Y R E S O B E D D Y
A E A S S E S S E O
C A T A R O R A
T A R G E T A D I A T I O N
E M I T T E N
L A U S I N I T E M I S E O
I N E O N E
A L G E R I A N T O R R E O

- DOWN**
- Old chestnut? On the contrary (7).
 - Soldiers will copy sinner (9).
 - Plant, profuse over most of Thailand once (7).
 - Extremely rude, then Samuel expresses regret (7).
 - Being complicated makes it certain to come to grief (9).
 - Light going down for second attack (7).
 - A close call in the field (5-2).
 - Affectionate dispute requiring the judgment of Solomon? (3,2,4).
 - Intervene — at first, I'm on the spot (9).
 - Butcher carves one the guts (7).
 - Toad, say, found route hard to climb (7).
 - Eliot's Adam holds little boy in manner of doctor (7).
 - Crack regiment, surrounded, lines up missile (7).
 - Flare-up over the lines in a number of flats, maybe (7).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0234 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
East of England	701
East Angles	702
East of London	703
East of Kent	704
East of Sussex	705
East of Devon	706
East of Cornwall	707
East of Wales	708
East of Scotland	709
East of Ireland	710
East of France	711
East of Germany	712
East of Poland	713
East of Czech Republic	714
East of Slovakia	715
East of Hungary	716
East of Romania	717
East of Bulgaria	718
East of Greece	719
East of Turkey	720
East of Cyprus	721
East of Israel	722
East of Jordan	723
East of Iraq	724
East of Kuwait	725
East of Saudi Arabia	726
East of Yemen	727
East of Oman	728
East of United Arab Emirates	729
East of Qatar	730
East of Bahrain	731
East of Brunei	732
East of Malaysia	733
East of Singapore	734
East of Indonesia	735
East of Philippines	736
East of Vietnam	737
East of Laos	738
East of Cambodia	739
East of Thailand	740
East of Myanmar	741
East of Bangladesh	742
East of India	743
East of Pakistan	744
East of Afghanistan	745
East of Uzbekistan	746
East of Turkmenistan	747
East of Tajikistan	748
East of Kyrgyzstan	749
East of Kazakhstan	750

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0234 501 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
East of England	751
East Angles	752
East of London	753
East of Kent	754
East of Sussex	755
East of Devon	756
East of Cornwall	757
East of Wales	758
East of Scotland	759
East of Ireland	760
East of France	761
East of Germany	762
East of Poland	763
East of Czech Republic	764
East of Slovakia	765
East of Hungary	766
East of Romania	767
East of Bulgaria	768
East of Greece	769
East of Turkey	770
East of Cyprus	771
East of Israel	772
East of Jordan	773
East of Iraq	774
East of Kuwait	775
East of Saudi Arabia	776
East of Yemen	777
East of Oman	778
East of United Arab Emirates	779
East of Qatar	780
East of Bahrain	781
East of Brunei	782
East of Malaysia	783
East of Singapore	784
East of Indonesia	785
East of Philippines	786
East of Vietnam	787
East of Laos	788
East of Cambodia	789
East of Thailand	790
East of Myanmar	791
East of Bangladesh	792
East of India	793
East of Pakistan	794
East of Afghanistan	795
East of Uzbekistan	796
East of Turkmenistan	797
East of Tajikistan	798
East of Kyrgyzstan	799
East of Kazakhstan	800

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: London 16°C, Lowest day temp: Llandudno, 10°C. Highest night temp: London 12°C, Lowest night temp: Llandudno, 5°C.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.48 am, Sun sets: 4.24 pm
Moon sets: 5.39 pm
Last quarter: January 24
London 4.24 pm to 7.57 am
Edinburgh 4.14 pm to 8.31 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 8.15 am
Perth 4.21 pm to 8.10 am

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FORECAST

General: Scotland will have wintry showers in the northwest and a bright frosty start elsewhere with gales and rain spreading from south. Northern Ireland will start bright but there will be gales and rain later. These will give way to clearer spells with showers. Southeast England will be cloudy with rain at times. Elsewhere will have clear intervals and frost in sheltered places. Rain and strong or gale force winds will spread from south.

London, SE England, E Anglia: wet and windy start but it will be brighter for a time. Heavy rain and gales later. Wind southerly strong, increasing gale force. Max 9C (48F).

Central S, Central N, SW, NW, E England, E, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales: mostly dry at first with bright or clear intervals. Rain quickly spreading from the south. Winds southerly, becoming gale to severe gale force in places. Max 9C (48F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland: clear or bright intervals at first. Frost in well sheltered parts, rapidly clearing. Cloud and rain heavy at times spreading from south. Frequent squally, wintry showers in evening. Winds southerly severe gale force. Max 6C (43F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright intervals after early frost. Cloud and rain spreading from south in afternoon. Winds southerly, gale in places. Max 5C (41F).

Outlook: unsettled with rain.

AFTERNOON

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	0.1	0.04	10	5	Liverpool	0.2	0.07	11	6
Angus	0.1	0.04	10	5	London	0.1	0.04	11	6
Arundel	0.1	0.04	10	5	Manchester	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Merseyside	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Morecambe	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Newcastle	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Northampton	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Nottingham	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Oldham	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Perth	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Plymouth	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Reading	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Sheffield	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Southampton	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Southend	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Stirling	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Sunderland	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Torquay	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Warrington	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Widnes	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Wigan	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Worcester	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Wrexham	0.1	0.04	11	6
Barnstaple	0.1	0.04	10	5	Wynnefryn	0.1	0.04	11	6

These are Sunday's figures

ABROAD

Algeria	12	54	1	37	Dublin	11	52	1	37
Algeria	12	54	1	37	Dubrovnik	11	52	1	37
Algeria	12	54	1	37	Paris	16	51	1	37
Algeria	12	54	1	37	Phnom Penh	11	52	1	37
Algeria	12	54	1	37	Prague	4	38	3	37
Algeria	12	54	1	37	Rangoon	16	51	1	37
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Algeria									



LAW 31-35

The case for new standards in Eurojustice



ARTS 37-39

Gunning for stage glory: an Arsenal fan in the West End



SPORT 40-44

Young leads 49ers to Super Bowl

THE NORTH LEADS WAY ON JOBS
Page 27

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 17 1995

Governor acts to allay rate fears

By JANET BUSH AND PHILIP BASSETT

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday attempted to allay fears that the authorities are about to raise interest rates sharply but said those who argue that the economy is still sluggish are suffering from a misconception.

Talking to Scottish bankers, he said that he understood people who feared a sharp rise in interest rates, but added: "On all the information available to us, there is, in our view, no reason to suppose that this need be the case."

He defended base rate rises in September and December, saying that the Bank was trying to moderate the rate of growth in the economy now, before inflation pressures

break out. Mr George also told bankers that, in all honesty, he could not say whether or when policy would need to be tightened further.

He warned them, however, against exaggerating the weakness of consumer spending. People are predicting because of higher taxes and low income growth, saying that spending was growing at about its trend rate.

Yesterday's figures for industrial costs and prices, as well as today's distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, send ambiguous signals for interest rate policy.

The CBI survey of 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling and the motor trade, showed that retail sales growth improved in December but retailers still said that the pace of sales growth is now expected to fall back.

Meanwhile, the Central Statistical Office reported a higher than expected rise in producer prices, suggesting that industry is becoming more successful at passing on higher costs of raw materials to their customers. Output prices rose by 0.7 per cent in December, giving an annual rise of 2.6 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent in November.

The Bank has repeatedly expressed concern about price pressures at the beginning of the production chain feeding through to the high street, and Mr George repeated those worries yesterday. At the same time, he played down expected weakness in the consumer sector, suggesting that he is likely to argue for another rate rise this spring.

Don Smith, economist at HSBC Markets, said the pro-

ducer prices figures were only marginally disappointing but conceded that "at face value, this data adds more ammunition to Eddie George's arsenal and increases the risk of a near-term interest rate hike".

CBI leaders said their latest figures showed a more even than expected pattern of annual growth in high street sales in the run up to Christmas and the new year sales. A balance of 19 per cent of high street companies — those reporting a rise set against those registering a fall — saw an increase in their sales volumes in the year to December.

While this indicates a faster rate of growth than the balance of 6 per cent for the previous month, retailers expect it to fall back next month.

The largest rises in sales, which are still regarded as only average for the time of year, came in clothing and hardware shops, with mail order firms reporting strong growth.

Taking all these sectors together, overall sales volumes rose more quickly in the year to December than in the previous two months, with a balance of 33 per cent of all distributors reporting a rise in volumes, though again sales are expected to fall back in the 12 months to January.

Economists said that the rise in December producer prices was boosted by Budget increases in excise on tobacco, petrol and alcohol. But even excluding these, there was still an underlying rise of about 0.3 per cent.

Input prices rose by 0.4 per cent compared with a rise of 0.7 per cent in November.

Pennington, page 25

George Davies's latest baby



Babies' day out: George Davies's latest range of babywear at Asda will soon be available in premature sizes and every piece sold will raise money for research by the Tommy's Campaign, the charity funding research into prematurity, miscarriage and stillbirth. The campaign, launched three years ago, has raised more than £2.5 million. Asda expects the range, modelled here by children of employees, to raise more than £40,000 for the charity. The collection,

designed by Mr Davies's company for Asda, will be on sale for two months and for each garment sold, the store will give 50p to Tommy's. It will then be replaced by a spring range. The smallest sizes are for babies up to five and a half pounds and range up to 12 months. Before joining forces with Asda, Mr Davies built Next into a national network of stores and launched its Directory, but was then ousted from the company.

Tempus, page 26

Saatchi board thrown a lifeline

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE embattled board of Saatchi & Saatchi, once the world's biggest advertising combine, were thrown a lifeline last night when a City fund manager that shares common ownership with its stockbroker emerged as holder of 13.6 per cent of the equity.

The news of the holding by PDM, formerly Phillips & Drew Fund Management, lifted the shares 9p to 111p. It came as the Saatchi board met to decide a new name that would distance the group from Maurice Saatchi, founder and deposed chairman.

PDM is owned by the Union Bank of Switzerland, also the ultimate owner of UBS, Saatchi's broker. PDM said the holding was on behalf of investment clients.

The fund manager was thought to have built up the stake of almost 30 million shares by purchases from investors unswayed by the plunge in the share price since Mr Saatchi was ousted as chairman before Christmas.

There was speculation last night that Mr Saatchi, who was last week served a writ by the remaining board, will initiate a legal counter-claim to day against the company for breach of contract.

Despite the announcement from PDM, the shares are still well below their 150p level at the time of Mr Saatchi's ousting, and the improvement will do little to assuage the anger of American shareholders who are threatening a \$150 million legal action over the losses they have suffered from the fall in the share price.

Saatchi & Saatchi said it would be reporting this morning on the board's deliberations. The company needs a chairman to replace Jeremy Sinclair, Mr Saatchi's immediate successor and one of three senior executives who quit over his forced departure.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	3076.7 (+28.4)
Yield	4.19%
FT-SE All share	1522.47 (+10.88)
Nikkei	Closed
New York	2822.89 (+14.13)
Dow Jones	468.71 (+2.74)
S&P Composite	
US RATE	
Federal Funds	UNQ (5.75%)
Long Bond	101.14 (7.79%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Euribor	8.75% (8.75%)
12-month Euribor	10.14% (10.14%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5685 (1.5685)
London	1.5671 (1.5671)
DM	2.4046 (2.4046)
FF	1.3100 (1.3100)
Sfr	2.0182 (2.0182)
Yen	154.55 (154.55)
£ Index	78.3 (78.3)
DOLLAR	
London	1.3310 (1.3310)
DM	1.2540 (1.2540)
FF	1.2833 (1.2833)
Sfr	1.6425 (1.6425)
Yen	88.6 (88.6)
TOKYO	
Close	15,000 (15,000)
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$18.35 (\$18.15)
GOLD	
London close	\$371.75 (\$371.00)
* denotes midday trading price	

Water jobs go

South West Water will shed 400 jobs over the next 15 months and is to close a laboratory in Truro that monitors the quality of drinking water. More jobs will go if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission rules that a tight lid has to be kept on prices.

Page 24, Pennington 25

Listing sought

Tomkins is to apply for a New York Stock Exchange quotation this year. Half of the group's sales come from the US but only 5 per cent of the shares are held there.

Page 25, Tempus 26

Germany wants EBRD in Bonn

By COLIN NARBROUGH

GERMANY, still stalling over its failure to secure the World Trade Organisation for Bonn, has now turned its sights on London's European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

With the bulk of the apparatus of government set to relocate to Berlin between 1998 and 2000, Bonn is faced with a huge surplus of office space. A spokesman for the German Finance Ministry said that the possibility of a formal demand was under consideration: for the EBRD to be relocated to Bonn from its headquarters in the Broadgate complex. He underlined that no official proposal has been made.

Britain secured the EBRD after tough negotiations between the governments backing the bank, whose mandate is to foster the transition of the former Soviet bloc from command to market economies.

The Treasury declined to comment on the question of Germany's interest in having the EBRD. But the issue was raised by Jürgen Stark, a German Finance Ministry official, at last week's session of the European Union's monetary committee. His remarks were not taken seriously at the time, but Bonn yesterday appeared to want to keep the issue alive.

Germany could argue that Bonn would be a cheaper location for the EBRD, but article 33 of the bank's statutes requires it to be located in London. Any change to this article would require the agreement of 75 per cent of the 59 shareholders and 80 per cent of the voting power of members.

Banker denies knowledge of Maxwell fraud

A BANKER with Crédit Suisse, one of the banks that lent money to Robert Maxwell, denied knowing that the loan was secured with pension fund assets (Jan Jenkins writes).

Julie Maitland, a loan officer with the bank, which arranged a £50 million short-term secured loan facility for Maxwell in 1990, told the High Court at Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane, that she was not lying when she said she could not recall seeing the ownership of share certificates offered as collateral. They had been delivered to her when the first loan of £10 million was drawn against the account.

Miss Maitland was giving evidence at the start of the 13th week of the case being brought by Maxwell Pensioners' MGN Pension Trustees Limited is seeking £52 million. Bishopsgate Investment Management Limited is seeking £28 million from Crédit Suisse for accepting pension fund assets as collateral against the loan knowing, or being negligent in not knowing, where they came from.

The case continues.



Maitland: loan officer

House of Fraser gives profit alert

By SARAH BAGNALL

HOUSE OF FRASER, the recently floated department store group, yesterday gave warning that profits would fail to match expectations because the unusually mild weather in the run-up to Christmas had forced price cuts.

The group also announced the closure of Bixms stores in South Shields and Bridlington and a Rackhams in Bradford at the cost of 467 full- and part-time jobs. The closures, with the closing of the Newcastle store, announced last August, will knock £2 million off current-year profits.

The news prompted analysts to cut profit forecasts for the year to January 31 and the shares slid 3p to 167p — well below last April's flotation price of 180p and 4p off the all-time low. Paul Morris, an analyst with Goldman Sachs, cut his forecast for profit before exceptional items from £44 million to £38 million. This, he said, reflected the erosion of margins, together with the company's higher than expected

cost of offering incentives to promote its charge card.

The City was pleased with sales in the Christmas period — up 10 per cent in the six weeks to December 25. The last four months of the financial year provide about 90 per cent of annual profits of the group, which owns Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy stores.

Richard Scott, finance director, said: "Ten per cent was better than we expected because November had been so slow."

Allders, the department store and duty-free retailer, said that Christmas trade at the stores went well, with sales up 12 per cent in December. In the first 15 weeks of the group's financial year, like-for-like sales rose by 4.3 per cent. Department store sales were 5.8 per cent up in the 15 weeks to January 14, in spite of demanding trading conditions and flat sales at the flagship store in Croydon. The duty-free division's trading stayed buoyant.

Tempus, page 26

Judge rules on payment to names

LITIGATING Gooda Walker names moved a step closer to receiving part payment of their estimated £504 million court award yesterday when a High Court judge ruled the defendants' insurance cover would respond to such a payment (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Mr Justice Phillips' decision comes two weeks before the hearing of the Gooda Walker Action Group's application for an interim payment.

The judge also ruled that the insurance funds available to meet Lloyd's names' claims should be distributed on a "first come, first served" basis. This raises the prospect of the funds being exhausted before some later actions reach court. Total claims made by names top £3 billion compared with the estimated £1 billion of insurance available to meet them.

Furthermore, it was ruled that insurers are liable for interest on the losses. The negligence in the Gooda Walker case was also deemed to have been three separate events.

Cut in home-loan support attacked

By ROBERT MILLER

HOUSE repossession will rise next year if the Government refuses to rethink Budget proposals to cut home-loan support payments, mortgage lenders will warn Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, at a meeting today.

Andrew Longhurst, chairman of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said yesterday that Mr Lilley had displayed "considerable ignorance" in his reasoning for the planned changes to the income support for mortgage payments system (ISM) and an unwarranted belief that what he was proposing would ensure that "borrowers are adequately protected".

He added: "Mr Lilley's proposals are anything but cast-iron, and mortgage lenders have grave concern about his plans."

Mr Longhurst poured scorn on Mr Lilley's suggestion that private insurers would fill the void left by withdrawal of state aid. He added that such insurance would have substantial exclusions and would provide only limited cover.

He suggested that policies would cost an average of an extra £21 a month. "The Government's estimated savings of £200 million per annum may easily be matched by the extra costs in the social housing sector and by the damaged households that have gone through the pain of losing their homes," he said.

He concluded: "What is in question now is not simply Mr Lilley's record for achieving savings in departmental expenditure but also the Government's commitment to the policy of supporting home owners and home ownership... Perhaps he will recognise it when he loses their votes."

□ The Halifax Building Society, the UK's largest lender, is expected finally to raise its variable mortgage rate this week. The market expects it to move to 8.50 per cent, from 8.10 per cent, in response to December's half-point base rate rise to 6.25 per cent.

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French press for 1997 monetary union deadline

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN BRUSSELS

IN A move bound to cause friction with Britain, the French presidency of the European Union has underlined its commitment to 1997 as a starting date for the final stage of the European Monetary Union.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and is also opposed by Germany. Two sides emerged yesterday, with the French backed by Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, who said that Europe's improving economy might make monetary union between some EU members possible by the end of next year. At the same time, John Major said that

he would reject any damaging constitutional changes proposed at the EU's Inter-Governmental Conference in 1996. Edmund Alphandery, the French Economics Minister, who presided over the first meeting of European economics and ministers under the French presidency, expressed the hope that eight countries would be

able to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria by the end of the next year. Under the treaty, stage three of EMU can begin in 1997 if a majority of EU members fulfil the criteria. If not, the third stage would begin in early 1999 among those countries willing and able to go ahead.

M. Alphandery said after the meeting: "1997 is not a date I would rule out. Personally, I would like to see a position that would allow eight countries to move ahead by 1997." But Mr Clarke said: "I remain doubtful about the fastest possible timetable of 1997, and believe this is not possible." Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, is also sceptical about the date, a scepticism shared by the Bundesbank.

South West Water to shed 400 jobs

BY ERIC REGULY

SOUTH WEST WATER will shed 400 jobs over the next 15 months and said "at least" 200 more will disappear if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, in a ruling expected in March, keeps a tight lid on its prices.

The utility is taking a £30 million charge this financial year to pay for the restructuring. About half will fund the redundancies; the rest will cover equipment and property write-offs, including closure of a laboratory in Truro that monitors quality of drinking water.

Michael Reynolds, for South West, said substantial savings were inevitable, although voluntary redundancy packages would be offered. About 170 positions will be eliminated from operations, 130 from the central office and 100 from the engineering department. The cuts come on top of 100 jobs lost last year. South West will have about 1,600 employees when the programme is completed. Mr Reynolds said the redundancies are the result of an efficiency review that has just

been completed. "This is not any sort of message to the MMC," he said. South West went to the MMC last year after Ian Byatt, the Director-General of Water Services, cut its "K factor," the amount above the retail price index by which it was allowed to raise its water charges. South West's K was reduced from 0.5 per cent above inflation to 1.5 per cent in 1995-96, and 1 per cent each year after that until 2000.

Keith Court, South West's chairman, said the new price limits would cripple its capital expenditure programme. He said the company was in a terrible shape before privatisation and needed the extra money to solve problems such as discoloured water.

He added: "Whatever the outcome of our current reference to the MMC, we must plan for a reduced annual capital expenditure programme and continue our quest for cost savings."

Pennington, page 25

Banks' fears resurface over environmental law

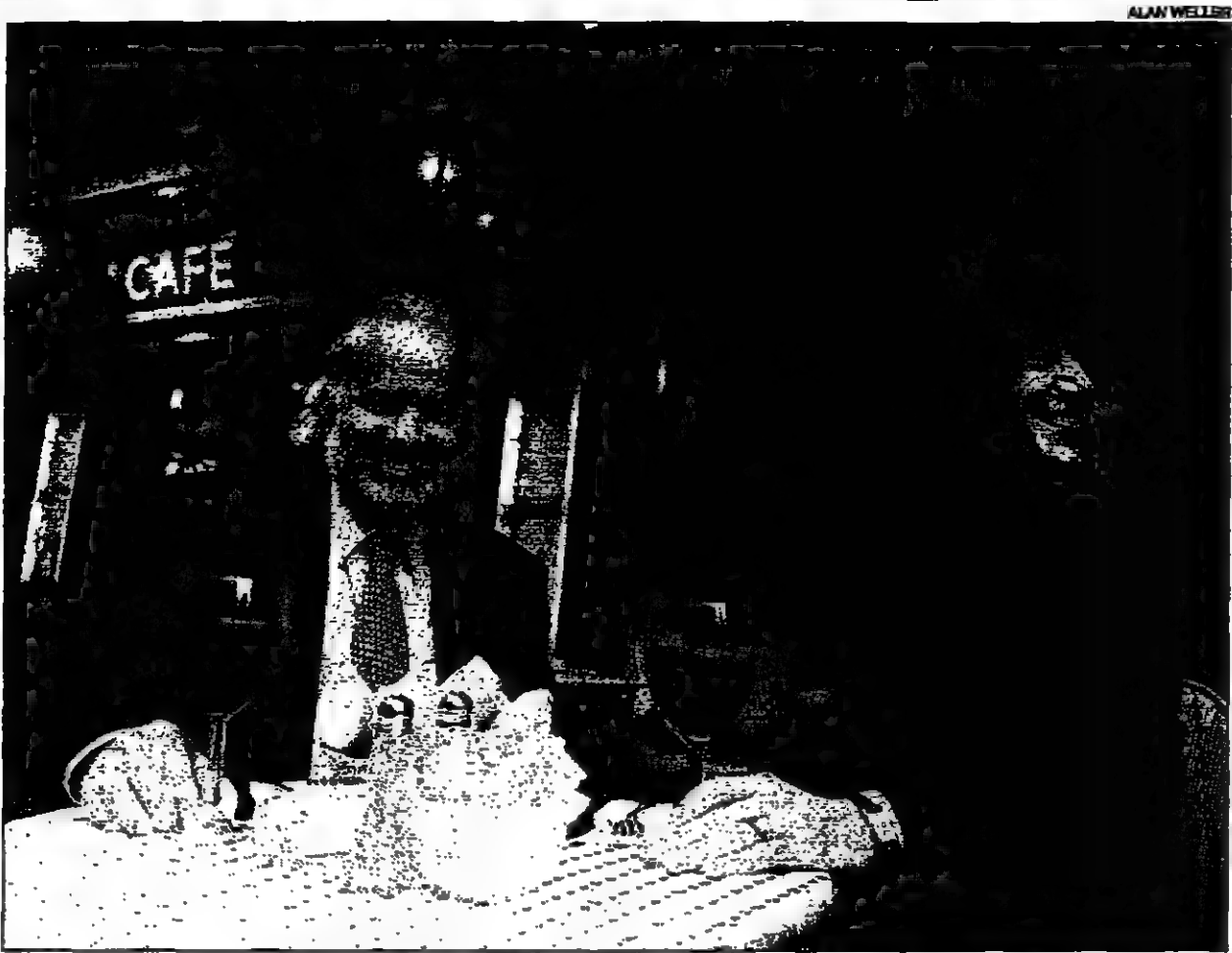
BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANKS' concerns that they may be made liable for pollution clean-up costs have resurfaced over "woolly" drafting of environmental law.

Legislation on the treatment of contaminated land reaches committee stage at the House of Lords today and is expected to reach the House of Commons by March. Officials are hoping the Bill will receive Royal Assent before the summer recess.

Bankers had initially welcomed government proposals published in a framework document last year. They were relieved that it had decided the act of lending did not open the lender to liability.

The BBA wants the Government to be clear about whether a bank could be defined as an "owner" if it holds land as security or whether it becomes the owner after repossessing that security.



The toast is more rapid growth for Pelican's Roger Myers, chairman, and Karen Jones, managing director

Pension measure 'no help'

OFFICIAL measures to soften the blow to women who have to wait an extra five years for their state pension will not make them better off. Instead some could end up worse off, research published today shows (Sara McConnell writes).

The state pension age is due to be equalised at 65 between 2010 and 2020. Women who receive family credit or disability working allowance may count these as earnings for pensions purposes.

But research carried out for the Equal Opportunities Commission by the social policy research unit at the University of York concludes that these concessions will be of little or no benefit.

TUC urges new-style worker recognition

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES would have the option of negotiating new means of employee representation rather than implementing Brussels' requirements, trade union leaders said as they launched new proposals on legal rights to representation and recognition.

The Government criticised yesterday's proposals from the Trades Union Congress as unjust, but Labour welcomed them. The TUC said almost 10 million workers would benefit from its proposals, for union and non-union members, and claimed strong support for its plans, releasing details of specially commissioned poll findings showing "overwhelming" public backing for employees' representation.

The NOP telephone poll of 1,000 adults showed 93 per cent of them thought people at work should have the right to be represented by a union on pay, and 95 per cent on work conditions. Under the TUC's proposals, companies recognising unions should consult them, and non-union firms should be offered union recognition.

In the absence of an agreement, employee representatives would be elected by the workforce. A new public agency would be established to determine contested recognition. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said his proposals formed a "framework which most employers could live with", while Bill Morris, the TGWU leader, said if employers had the choice of having legislation imposed upon them from Brussels or reaching voluntarily "sensible and constructive" deals with unions tailored to their company, then for good commercial reasons most companies would choose the option of a friendly negotiated deal.

Pelican's menu expands

BY SARAH RAGNALL

THE Pelican Group, which operates restaurants in Britain and America, plans aggressive expansion to create more than 700 jobs around Britain this year. It hopes to open 30 restaurants, further to the rapid growth over the past 18 months and helped by the acquisition in June of the Dome restaurant chain.

Roger Myers, chairman, said: "We now have 59 trading restaurants and the necessary management and resources to continue this expansion rate through 1995."

The news came as Pelican announced the payment of its first interim dividend of 0.5p, to be paid out of earnings of 1.0p a share, down from 1.5p last time because of a £20 million rights issue last year.

Pre-tax profits rose 40 per cent, from £960,000 to £1.35 million, in the six months to September 30, on the back of a 105 per cent leap in turnover from £6.7 million to £13.6 million. The shares remained unchanged at 82p.

Mr Myers said some of the Dome sites had been converted into Café Rouge restaurants. The performance had far exceeded expectations. Sales had increased by more than 100 per cent from their former levels.

The company intends to finance some of its new restaurants by up to £5 million through the enterprise investment scheme. Pelican will manage the restaurants and after five years is committed to buy them.

Sun Alliance inquires into private file lapse

BY ROBERT MILLER

SUN ALLIANCE, Britain's largest provider of household insurance, said yesterday that it was conducting an internal investigation into a security lapse that led to confidential information about policyholders being sent to a private address in west London.

The Sun Alliance documents, which included details of policyholders' insured possessions and the security precautions that they had taken to protect their valuables, continued to arrive at the private address over several weeks. The confidential papers also show that Sun Alliance is paying some independent insurance brokers a commission of up to 17 per cent, which consumers must pay in addition to policy premiums.

A Sun Alliance spokesman yesterday said: "It is a matter of regret that this security breach has happened, and, of course, we are investigating it. We believe that the name of an insurance broker was wrongly merged on the computer with a private address. We do not know at this stage how many policyholders are affected, but it is not more than six. Our commission rate of 17 per cent

is well within the market parameters." He said that, contrary to some reports, Sun Alliance "does not appear to have any trace of us being informed about the misdirected letters until last Friday".

In 1993 the insurer reported £550 million premium income for home contents insurance.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Malaysian link for Branson's airline

RICHARD BRANSON yesterday signed a ten-year marketing deal with Malaysian Airlines that could boost the profits of his airline, Virgin Atlantic, by at least £8 million a year. Virgin, which broke even on its operations in the year to October and is on course for a "significant" profit this year, is entering a new form of route-sharing that it has pioneered, in which one airline effectively "buys" seats from another. Virgin's first scheme involved Delta, the US carrier, and has yet to receive government blessing.

The Malaysian arrangement is similar, except that Virgin does not have to pay in advance yet effectively block-books seats on the daily service between Heathrow and Kuala Lumpur and connecting flights throughout the Far East. Delta plans to book seats similarly on Virgin transatlantic services from Heathrow. "This is our first push into South East Asia and presents us with the chance of linking into other exotic destinations throughout the Far East," Mr Branson said. "If it is approved, it gets us a through service to Australia and on all the services we act as if we are one airline."

Bell seeks listing

BELL CABLEMEDIA, Britain's third-largest cable operator, is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange by the summer. An equity offering may accompany the listing. Bell, 14 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, floated on the over-the-counter market in America last July. It had planned to float in London as well, but found there was little investor interest in the cable sector. The group believes attitudes have changed and is exploring the idea of an equity offering. It is also looking for an investment adviser.

SFA expels managers

TWO investment managers have been expelled from the Securities and Futures Authority. Neil Campbell, a former director in the Bristol office of Albert E. Sharp, ran a pension fund and retirement benefit scheme and was found to have organised two loans to his own management consultancy company and pension fund. Stephen Ball, a settlements manager at Central Stockbrokers in Manchester, misappropriated securities belonging to the estate of a deceased client.

Unigate sells NCA

UNIGATE, the food and distribution services group, announced the sale of its National Car Auctions business to the senior management and funds advised by CIN Ven for an undisclosed sum. NCA, with its 215 employees, had sales of £8.8 million in the year to March 31. Ross Buckman, the Unigate chairman and chief executive, said: "This sale marks a final step in our departure from the motor business and is in line with our strategy of focusing more closely on our core businesses."

Eurocamp drives ahead

EUROCAMP, the holiday company, has seen a 10 per cent rise in bookings for the current year in the opening weeks. The company said it would benefit from the opening of the Channel Tunnel, which had driven down the price of taking cars on ferries and created additional interest in continental Europe as a holiday destination. In the year to October 31, pre-tax profits rose to £8.65 million (£6.25 million). Earnings rose to 22.4p a share (16.2p). The final dividend is 6.5p (6.3p), payable on April 21, making 10.5p for the year (9.75p).

Mortgage deal for Leeds

LEEDS PERMANENT, the UK's fifth-largest building society, is to acquire London & Manchester's mortgage book, which has gross assets of £30 million, for £16 million. Completion of the L&M deal is scheduled for March 7, at which point the Leeds will refinance bank borrowings of £36 million and intra-group loans of £19 million relating to L&M subsidiaries. L&M, the life assurance and financial services group, said that it would use the proceeds from the sale to repay bank borrowings.

Carlo raises dividend

CARLO ENGINEERING has lifted the interim dividend to 3.2p (1.9p) after pre-tax profits rose to £7.3 million (£5.2 million) in the half year to September 30. The increase reflects the first full contribution from Arthur Lee, an engineering company acquired in 1993. Earnings rose to 8.2p a share (6.9p), from which the dividend will be paid on March 9. Turnover from continuing operations increased to £76.2 million (£55.8 million). John Ewart, chairman, said orders in the last three months were up on the year-earlier period.

Black chief for gold mine

JCI, the Anglo-American subsidiary, has appointed the first black chairman of a gold mining company in South Africa. Khaya Ngqula, managing director of Norwich Unit Trust, will chair Lindum Reefs, a small gold mine in the JCI stable. His appointment is part of Anglo's ambitious strategy to sell off JCI's gold mining and industrial interests to black shareholders. As chairman of Lindum Reefs, a non-executive position, Mr Ngqula will closely monitor the unbundling and proposed black empowerment drive at JCI.

Revival at Robert Lowe

ROBERT H LOWE, the printing, packaging and sports-wear company, has promised to restore dividend payments this year after returning to profit in the 12 months to October 31. Pre-tax profits were £782,000, recovering from a loss of £1.9 million previously when there was a £10 million charge against disposals. David Schire, chairman, said he expected an improved performance from all divisions. The company was already enjoying lower interest payments. Earnings were 1.32p a share, compared with losses of 26.45p.

THE TIMES

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South West gets its hands dirty

CLEANLINESS may be next to godliness but the bosses at South West Water — faced with consumers and politicians who are enraged by bills — have finally decided that a little dirt can be swept under the carpet if necessary and safely blamed on short-termist politicians.

Out on the Celtic fringe of Britain, South West Water consumers have benefited least from the financial devolution of their water and sewage utility. The company is caught between two vociferous lobbies. On one side there are the customers and their MPs who are understandably angry about some of the highest bills in the country, which have seen real increases of 11.5 per cent over the past three years. On the other are the chattering classes, alongside esoteric pressure groups such as Surfers Against Sewage, who spend their summer holidays in Cornwall and are demanding clean beaches for all.

Oftwat, the water regulator, came down squarely in favour of efficient and lower bills in its periodic review last summer, rejecting South West's aggressive pitch to rise prices 8 per cent ahead of inflation. Instead it cut the water company's proposed capital expenditure in half to £500 million.

South West's response yesterday demonstrates the brutal

reality of such cutbacks. As well as the job cuts and the closure of a water testing laboratory, which should infuriate the environmental lobby, some 25,000 homes will still suffer brown water in their taps while another 500 will still find sewage swirling into their sinks during heavy rain. That is the bleak picture that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission must consider as it weighs up South West's appeal against Oftwat's clampdown. Yesterday's emotive cutbacks can only help the company in its attempt to have the strait-jacket loosened slightly, particularly since they affect customers and not just fair-weather visitors.

Ordinary customers are not, however, the only pressure group. Surfers may not pay water charges but are among the keenest critics of backsliding on clean-up schemes. Regulators can decree but that is not the end of the matter for a privatised industry. It would be no surprise if South West were again challenged privately in the courts.

Aside from headline environmental matters, the argument before the MMC will be about

the company's ability to finance the majority of schemes that are still in its programme. It can certainly point to industry efficiency tests that show it was hard done by in Oftwat's rulings. A point or two on prices would make all the difference. But the company is not crying wolf and the commission's comparative justice cannot be taken for granted. Shareholders will inevitably bear some real pain, principally in dividends. This is already allowed for in the stock market, which has awarded South West a significantly lower rating than its compatriots and the highest yield.

Grilling Clarke and George

KENNETH CLARKE and Eddie George periodically have to turn up to be grilled by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, whose cross-party membership ranges from the informed to the eccentric.

Chancellor and Governor have to play their part in the democratic process but it is a



chore. Ken displays his slight irritation with the process by resorting to Treasury stock phrases and ignoring the real meaning of questions. Eddie, whose quiet voice is barely audible in the high-ceilinged committee room, answers with patience tinged with pain.

But these encounters are not unimportant and the committee often shows far more good sense in its reports than sometimes seems apparent in its questioning. Yesterday's offering put its finger on one of the more outlandish of the Treasury's Budget forecasts — namely investment. This is supposed to rise 10.75 per cent this year, having registered a measly 2 per cent gain in 1994. The committee

notes some of the positive background features that the Treasury cites to justify its optimism — the large financial surplus and healthy profits of companies which have recovered well from the recession. However, it also makes the point, entirely correct, that much of the investment already seen has gone abroad. A slew of reports from various parts of industry since the turn of the year have delivered the Chancellor a unanimous message that companies are frightened of investing their surpluses because of the prospect of higher interest rates.

The committee also did some useful straight talking on pre-election tax cuts. The report, written by Tories too, said that tax cuts would have to be taken for economic, not political, reasons and expressed hope that the Chancellor would practice the prudence he constantly preaches on this subject.

But the most welcome service performed by the committee was its request for clarification of the Government's Public Finance Initiative, the vehicle supposed to attract private money for public

infrastructure projects. Was this, the committee asked, designed to supplement public spending or replace it?

Offer's electric disturbance

THE pathfinder prospectus from the two electricity generators is going to be a curious document when it emerges blinking into the light of day on January 30, and the actions of the industry regulator are making it more curious by the day, even though Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director-General of electricity supply, is not going to be offered the opportunity to contribute.

The warnings over the opposition's intentions for the power industry in general and National Power and PowerGen in particular have been well flagged by this column, and the weekend debate in the Labour ranks over renationalisation of the railways can only give added piquancy to whatever form of words the advisers to the float eventually come up with.

But it is the regulator's actions that must be arousing most concern at the Treasury, because Professor Littlechild now has not one but two enquiries running whose outcome will directly or indirectly affect the future of the gencons and the float.

He will, probably next week, publish his plans to allow the regional electricity companies, which have no shortage of funds to invest, to increase their involvement in generation. They are currently limited to producing 15 per cent of their power requirements. A relaxation of this limit would prompt the fear of significant new competition for the two generators, which is not what potential investors in the existing duopoly will want to hear.

Yesterday, meanwhile, he requested comment by February 10 on a parallel inquiry into the liberalisation of the supply market beyond 1998, when all consumers will be allowed to shop around for electricity.

This will, by indicating the size of that market, presumably have equally important implications for any regional companies that are planning to invest in generation.

Industry observers are beginning to wonder, not for the first time in his tenure, about the state of relations between Professor Littlechild and the Treasury.

Tomkins to apply for New York SE quote

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TOMKINS, the conglomerate chaired by Greg Hutchings which takes in Smith & Wesson handguns and Rankin Hovis baking products, is to apply for a New York Stock Exchange quotation this year to reflect the rising proportion of its business done in the United States.

Mr Hutchings said that while about 50 per cent of sales come from the US, just 5 per cent of the shares are held there, in ADR form through the American Nasdaq market.

Tomkins was announcing interim profits that put the company on course for its fourteenth consecutive year of record profits. Pre-tax profits rose from £93.8 million to £114.5 million for the first half to October 29, ahead of market expectations.

The group, which in August promised a rise in dividends for the current financial year of not less than 15.2 per cent, is raising the interim dividend by 16.8 per cent to 2.43p, with shareholders being offered new shares in lieu of cash. The payment is out of earnings per share, fully diluted, that rose from 3.53p to 6.59p.

Mr Hutchings said the US companies were continuing to benefit from generally strong market conditions while in the UK recovery was continuing, albeit at a slower pace than in the US.

The group ended the half-year with £205 million in the



Hutchings ready to buy

bank, up £48 million from the level at the end of the last financial year. Mr Hutchings said the strong balance sheet would support an acquisition of £500 million to £700 million.

The last big purchase was Rankin Hovis McDougall, bought in 1992. He said: "Managerially we're ready for a big acquisition, and in terms of cash we're ready." But there was nothing firm in the company's sights.

Tomkins has, however, set its mind against following the example of other cash-rich quoted companies and buying back its own shares, he added.

The positive statement was not sufficient to allow Tomkins shares to hang on to early stock market gains. They ended all square at 230p.

Analysts hit Rémy Cointreau

SHARES in Rémy Cointreau, the French liqueurs and champagnes group, tumbled as analysts adjusted their views of this year's profits in the light of interim figures from the group and a falling dollar (Martin Waller writes).

Marc Hérard Dubreuil, joint managing director, said that increased sales to Far East countries such as China had meant that the proportion of group sales denominated in dollars had risen from 35 per cent to 40 per cent, while Cognac sales were down in key markets such as Japan, Taiwan and Germany.

As a result, Rémy Cointreau lost £70 million from foreign exchange movements in the first half, to September 30, cutting profits before exceptional items to Fr33.2 million, from Fr108.4 million.

Higher exceptional items of Fr52.2 million, from property and other sales, left pre-tax profits higher, at Fr28.4 million, against Fr22.5 million.

French analysts cut net profit estimates from Fr300 million to about Fr260 million. The shares fell Fr10 to Fr175 on the French bourse.

Littlechild challenge for RECs

By ERIC RAGULY

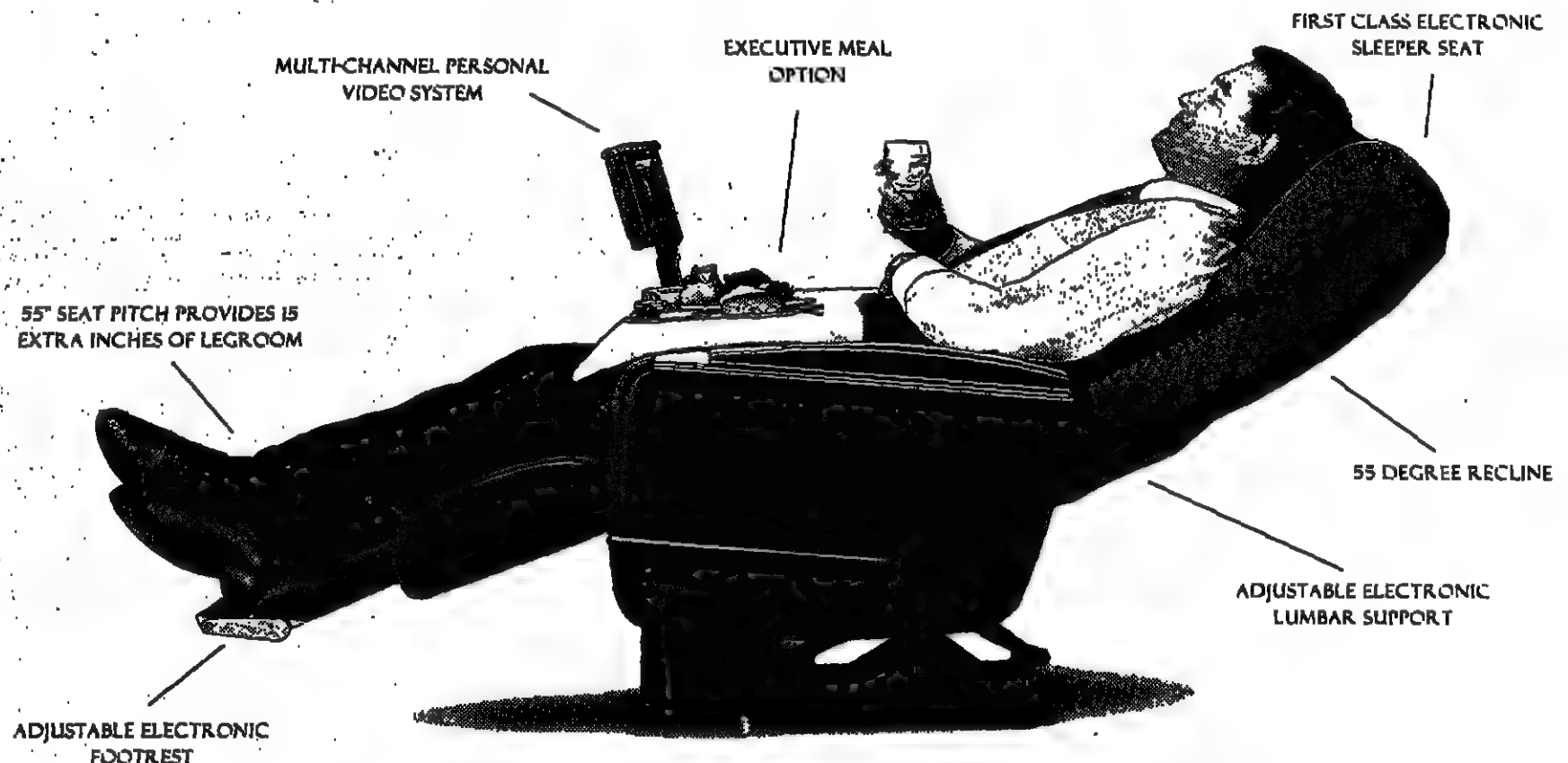
THE Director-General of Electricity Supply said yesterday that he wanted the electricity market opened up for competition on a test basis well before 1998, when more than 20 million customers will be able to choose suppliers (See Pennington, this page).

Stephen Littlechild has also set up an 11-member committee to monitor progress towards the free market and spot problems. The members range from consumer group officials to executives from the regional electricity companies.

Professor Littlechild hopes that the committee will prevent the disorder that characterised deregulation's first big step, last April, when customers with demands exceeding 100 kW were allowed to select their own suppliers. Some could not get their meters connected to the wholesale electricity market, known as the pool, in the last-minute rush.

Trials are expected next year within each electricity franchise area. They will test new half-hourly metering systems, which would allow the customer to switch to the cheapest supplier. The meter would be connected to a communications network, allowing it to be monitored remotely.

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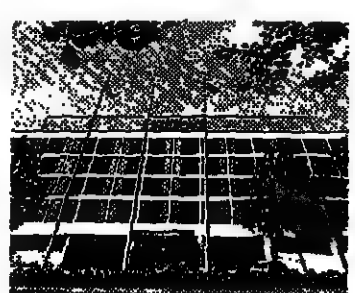


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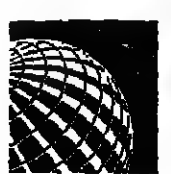


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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares take heart from Wall Street's strength

SHARE prices were squeezed sharply higher as London opened to take advantage of two consecutive days of strong gains on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial Average was making a concerted assault on the 4,000 level.

The FT-SE 100 Index opened higher and appeared to grow in confidence as the day wore on, shuffling aside news of a sharp rise in factory gate prices during December.

It closed at its best of the day after a rise of 28.4 points, to 3,076.7, as Wall Street extended its advance with further early gains for the Dow. But the rise lacked conviction, a fact reflected in thin turnover levels that saw 566 million shares change hands.

Early attention focused on those companies with an international flavour, supported by a resurgence in the fortunes of the ailing dollar.

Allied Domecq rose 8p to 540p. BAT Industries 10p to 460p. ICI 17p to 735p. RMC Group 14p to 655p. Even the Rank Organisation rallied 7p to 380p in the wake of last week's decision to sell part of its holding in Rank Xerox to the Xerox Corporation.

The overnight strength of the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong boosted companies with close connections to the colony. HSBC rose 1p to 663p. Standard Chartered gained 9p to 260p and Cable and Wireless 11p to 377p.

Shares of Berisford International returned from suspension 45p higher at 273p after completion of the acquisition of Welbit in the US. The rise in the share price will be particularly good news for Alan Bowkett, chief executive, who has an option on almost 1.5 million shares at 98p, which expires later this month. The option was only exercisable if the Berisford share price exceeded 20p.

Tesco firmed 3p to 243p before a trading statement expected sometime this week, possibly today. Trading conditions remain difficult, with margins under pressure. Sales should show useful increases over Christmas.

Tomkins, a gun-toting baker with interests ranging from Mr Kipling's cakes to Smith & Wesson guns, held steady at 230p after weighing in with better than expected half-year profits. Pre-tax profits in the first six months grew 22 per cent to £14.5



Profits are thinner for Sturms's Stephen Thwaite

million. The group benefited from a strong performance by its US operations and the integration of its Ranks Hovis McDougall subsidiary was on schedule. Shareholders were rewarded with a 16.8 per cent rise in the interim payout to 2.43p.

Cadbury Schweppes slipped 1p to 413p amid mounting speculation that the

in full-year pre-tax profits from £1.5 million to £1.02 million. Saatchi & Saatchi managed to claw back some of its recent losses with the help of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, which has taken advantage of the weakness in the share price to increase its holding in the company to almost 30 million, or 13.6 per cent.

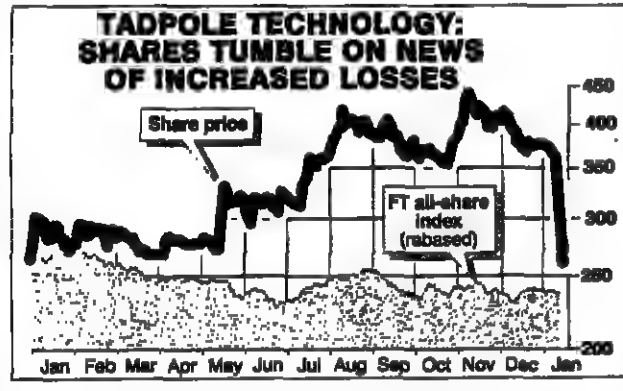
Capital Radio jumped 9p to 368p as a line of 500,000 shares went through the market at about the 367p level. Capital has been a strong market of late, coming from 330p since Christmas amid claims that overseas investors have taken a shine to the group. There has been talk that the group is vulnerable to a bid.

group wants to mount a hostile bid for the US soft drinks group Dr Pepper in which it has a 25 per cent stake already. Talks about a merger last year were aborted.

Sturms, headed by Stephen Thwaite, chief executive, and which describes itself tactfully as the clothing manufacturer with expertise in the design and fit of mature ladies, fell 9p to 105p after reporting a drop

Meanwhile, the battle between the Saatchi board and Maurice Saatchi, its founder, and the group of executive defectors continued to rage. The group is now considering a change of name to coincide with the departure of Maurice Saatchi.

One of the biggest casualties on the day was Tadpole Technology, the portable computer group, which tumbled



At the longer end of the conventional market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 slipped 1/8 to £103 3/4, while in shorts Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 was down 1/16 at £103 1/8.

NEW YORK: Rising hopes that the Federal Reserve would not tighten short-term interest rates at the end of the month bolstered share prices on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average was 14.13 points higher at midday at 3,922.59.

82p to 52p. It brought forward its annual meeting statement, prompted by the collapse in the price, warning that losses in the first quarter would be greater than expected. The group originally budgeted for a loss of £1.8 million but this has grown to £2.5 million.

Delays to the shipment programmes of new products were blamed. Tadpole, which has yet to make a profit, said it believed 1995 would be a pivotal year.

The picture emerging from the high street remains mixed. Alders firmed 4p to 213p after reporting a rise in sales during December of 7 per cent.

Sales overall were limited by the continued disruption to its Whitgift centre in Croydon. It was a different story for House of Fraser, down 3p to 167p, which warned that weak margins due to heavy discounting would have an adverse effect on results for the

current year. The group is also planning to close three of its northern stores in April at a cost of £2 million. After a dull November, sales in the run-up to Christmas rose 10 per cent.

Robert Lowe, the sports-wear group and printer that is under new management, stood out with a rise of 1 1/2p to 114p after returning to the black with full-year figures for the first time in five years. It recorded pre-tax profits of £72.00 million against a loss of £11.8 million.

GILT EDGED: Gilts traded in narrow limits for much of the day with both US and Japanese bond markets closed for national holidays. Investors were reluctant to open fresh positions before US Industrial Production figures and a welter of domestic economic news tomorrow.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt finished just a tick lower at £101 1/8 as a modest 2,000 contracts were completed.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3922.59 (+14.13)
S&P Composite	458.71 (+1.74)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	7504.24 (+251.90)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Index	415.38 (+2.77)
Sydney:	
ASX	1879.1 (+0.38)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2085.64 (+0.02)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2107.39 (+26.68)
Brussels:	
General	7122.32 (+23.61)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1871.81 (+18.88)
Zurich:	
SWX Gen	661.70 (+4.48)
London:	
FTSE 100	3076.7 (+28.4)
FTSE 250	3473.9 (+4.6)
FTSE 1000	1322.54 (+17.78)
FT A-Share	122.47 (+0.08)
FT Non Financials	1664.61 (+0.06)
FT Gold Mines	2203.3 (+2.2)
FT Financials	108.25 (+0.08)
FT Govt 505	91.87 (+0.19)
FT Govt 505	2124.4
SEAC Volume	566.2m
US Dollar (midday)	1.5750 (+0.0007)
US\$	1.5750 (+0.0007)
German Mark	2.3900 (+0.0008)
Exchange Index	793.3 (+3.2)
Bank of England official cash rate	5.00%
ESCU	1.3667
ESCU	1.0669
RPI	143.3 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Management Inv (100)	99
BSE	254
British Assets Gwth	63
Caledonian Media Wks	5
Clydeport	167
First Russ Front (\$10)	90
Gart Micro Wks (\$10)	508
Hill Hill	102
Investors Capital	87
Invests Cap Inc An	37
Klein Capital (100)	100
Lazard Wks Ltd	53
Lazard Wks Ltd Wks	31
MICE Group (3)	3
Mishon Lloyds Inv (100)	85
Penex Oil	105
RM (175)	206
Telewest Coms (182)	171
Wellington Under (100)	102
Woodchester Units	125

RIGHTS ISSUES

Hewitt n/p (68)	24
Powell Duffryn n/p (440)	58
Trilo n/p (25)	4
Verity n/p (7)	4

MAJOR CHANGES

FRS:	833p (+11p)
Net West	401p (+10p)
SG Waburg	888p (+15p)
Whitbread	888p (+10p)
RMC Group	888p (+14p)
ICI	788p (+17p)
Deutsche Bus Systems	888p (+9p)
Capital Radio	388p (+19p)
Haynes Pub	388p (+15p)
Read Int	788p (+9p)
Saatchi	111p (+9p)
Carbo Eng	278p (+11p)
Hadleigh	158p (+10p)
Eurocamp	278p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Wessex	267p (-10p)
Tadpole Tech	252p (-8p)
Quento	240p (-4p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Bread roll

TOMKINS is a company that shows no mortal weaknesses. Sales, margins and profits in all its businesses *trundle* relentlessly upwards, whether they make lawn mowers, windows or bread rolls. The financial performance in the first half was impeccable. Not only is the group benefiting from the economic recovery in America, which boosted operating profits in three of its disparate divisions by about 50 per cent, but the radical cutbacks in milling and baking is also having the desired effect. Cash generation was superb, and gives the company scope to fund a £700 million acquisition from its own resources.

Despite all these strengths, Tomkins' shares languish on a current-year forecast earnings multiple of 13. It is not easy to detect what the City dislikes about the group. There are a few financial niggles, such as the dilution that

Murray Ohio, the lawnmower business, will suffer when it is merged with Noma, the recent acquisition, this summer. This will restrain second-half earnings, but the effect is minor, given the overall forward momentum.

Tomkins is heavily out of fashion as a scattered conglomerate while popular companies are talking about critical mass and core businesses. The market also expects, except for last year's boardroom reshuffle, which saw Greg Hutchings promoted into the chair in place of a non-executive chairman.

Unless Tomkins can find its way back into favour, the group may well be forced to use its own resources for acquisitions rather than issue low-rated paper. That is a final reason for the dampener on the share price. Investors sense that any re-rating would be swiftly followed by a big deal and a rights issue.

House of Fraser

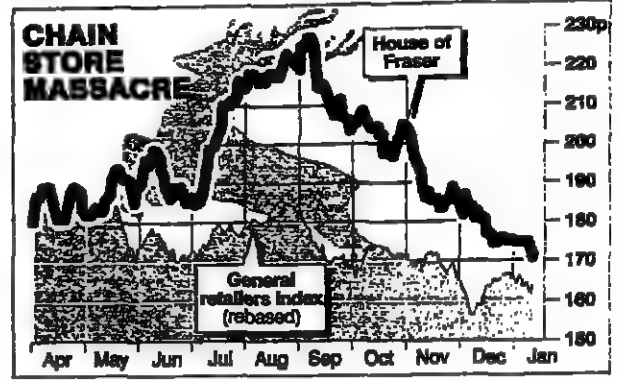
FOR clothing retailers, this winter has been the one that got away, with piles of unsold overcoats now blocking the aisles. The warm weather is hitting all the chains but House of Fraser's department stores seem to be suffering more than most.

Poor sales growth in the first few months of the second half spoil attempts to improve gross margins, while a weak start to sales of winter fashions led to aggressive discounting. The group's offer price cuts of 20 per cent on some items. That was enough to save HoF the embarrassment of a loss of market share but the cost of the sales promotion has been at least a full point of gross margin: not a picture the company wants to present in its first year as a quoted company, particularly

as its shares are 13p below the offer.

Part of HoF's problem is its low sales density. The closure of three stores with below average sales will help to improve margins. It is also investing in existing stores and claims strong sales growth in the refurbished buildings. Few would quibble with the investment but

the question is how long HoF will take to bring its sales densities up to industry averages. In a climate in which even the strongest retailers are cutting prices, HoF is in a weak position. Unless shoppers can be rescued, the company could have to finance more aggressive discounting in the spring.



BBA Group

BBA's acquisition of Terram yesterday came as a surprise to many in the market who thought that Bob Quarta, the chief executive, was only there to sell things and free the group from its long tail of underperforming businesses. The business that BBA is buying looks even more surprising. Instead of adding to its main automotive components business, the group is expanding its non-woven tentile operations, which looked distinctly peripheral to the outside observer, particularly since it sold its fire-protection textile companies to Williams in November.

But non-woven tentiles is an important element in Mr Quarta's blueprint for the new BBA. Reemay, the group's American business in the sector, generates a margin well into double digits from its specialist industrial products. Terram's filtration products will complement Reemay and provide a

European arm. Nor was Terram expensive, since Exon was so keen to sell. At £1 million, it comes on an exit p/e ratio of only eight since it already generates a 10 per cent operating margin, and it will enhance earnings immediately. BBA still has further disposals ahead. It does not look a long-term holder of either hard brake manufacturing, brake fluid distribution, or even some of the aerospace components businesses. But these will be balanced by acquisitions to fill out the motor provision businesses. Other areas that look likely to grow are specialist electronics and aviation services, as well as the main friction materials manufacturing operations. The additional growth prospects can only enhance Mr Quarta's growing fan club.

Hanson

ONE of the grandest games in town is to try and guess Hanson's next acquisition. It

is a mug's game, since Hanson has always found its deals where least expected.

But the group has just given a strong hint of its favourite business of the moment by giving a presentation on its chemicals division. Hanson is tickled pink by its acquisition of Quantum in 1993. It was timed to coincide with the bottom of the chemicals cycle and has already substantially enhanced earnings.

With reduced gearing, Hanson is once again in the market for acquisitions. Due to the company's size, there are few industries it can look at for an acquisition large enough to make a significant impact. The group would be unwise to expand in energy or aggregates where its interests are already substantial. But the world of chemicals offers wide scope for expansion, provided the right target comes along.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE	
Commodity	Price
Mar 95	79.97
May 95	79.97
Jul 95	79.97
Sep 95	79.97
Nov 95	79.97
Dec 95	79.97
Jan 96	79.97
Feb 96	79.97
Mar 96	79.97
Apr 96	79.97
May 96	79.97
Jun 96	79.97
Jul 96	79.97
Aug 96	79.97
Sep 96	79.97
Oct 96	79.97
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Nov 10	79.97
Dec 10	79.97
Jan 11	79.97

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYConsuming
problem

COULD IT be the collapse of communism in Europe that has emboldened the International Organisation of Consumers Unions, whose HQ is in London, to change its name to Consumers International? Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, launches the sleeker, more consumer-friendly name at the official opening of the organisation's new premises in Highbury next Monday. With 203 member associations in 80 countries, and the world consumer movement growing apace, the old HQ at the Angel, Islington, had clearly become too cramped.

Real gold mine

THE Gwynedd gold mine at Dolgellau in the Snowdonia National Park is about to list its shares under Rule 4.2 supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Welsh mine, opened in 1963, is the only working gold mine in Britain. Given that its gold, known to the Romans, carries a Celtic premium, flotation could hardly be called a rushed job.

Ship ahoy

FANCY trading your dreary landlubber existence in the City for something excitingly maritime? The Temple Pier Company of Faversham, Kent, is offering an elegant, licensed vessel, built in 1927 as a survey ship for the Port of London Authority, for around £1 million. The *St Katharine*, moored on the Thames, across the road from Temple tube station, has 5,500 sq ft of inboard space plus ample deck. The owners tell me that she seats about 100 and would be a perfect fish restaurant. With water quality in the river much improved, one might even include a catch-your-own facility.



"That's real bread"

Late entrant

AMID talk of a "fourth man" entering the race for the top job at the World Trade Organisation, Andr  s Szepesi, the Hungarian envoy in charge of the hunt, is, I hear, intensifying his efforts to resolve the leadership issue. Peter Sutherland, who agreed to head the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva temporarily until mid-March, clearly wants to see more of his family — in Dublin. Mexico's statement that it is not paying the campaign of Carlos Salinas de Gort  ri, its former President, for the post, has lowered his chances. That leaves Renato Ruggiero, the former Italian Trade Minister, in the running as the European Union's man, with Kim Chul-Su, the ex-South Korean Trade Minister, as Asia's contender. The snag about the possible candidacy of Philip Burton, the New Zealand Minister for Trade and Commerce Negotiations and the "fourth man" on everyone's lips (for possible "fifth" and "sixth" men) is that the deadline for applying to be WTO Director-General was last July.

COLIN NARBROUGH

North leads way in the battle to produce jobs

Philip Bassett
looks at
the pattern
of low
unemployment

When the Government announces its latest job figures tomorrow, they will mark a milestone in Britain's economic recovery. Unemployment began to fall two years ago, and ministers will claim the anniversary as testament to the success of the Government's policies.

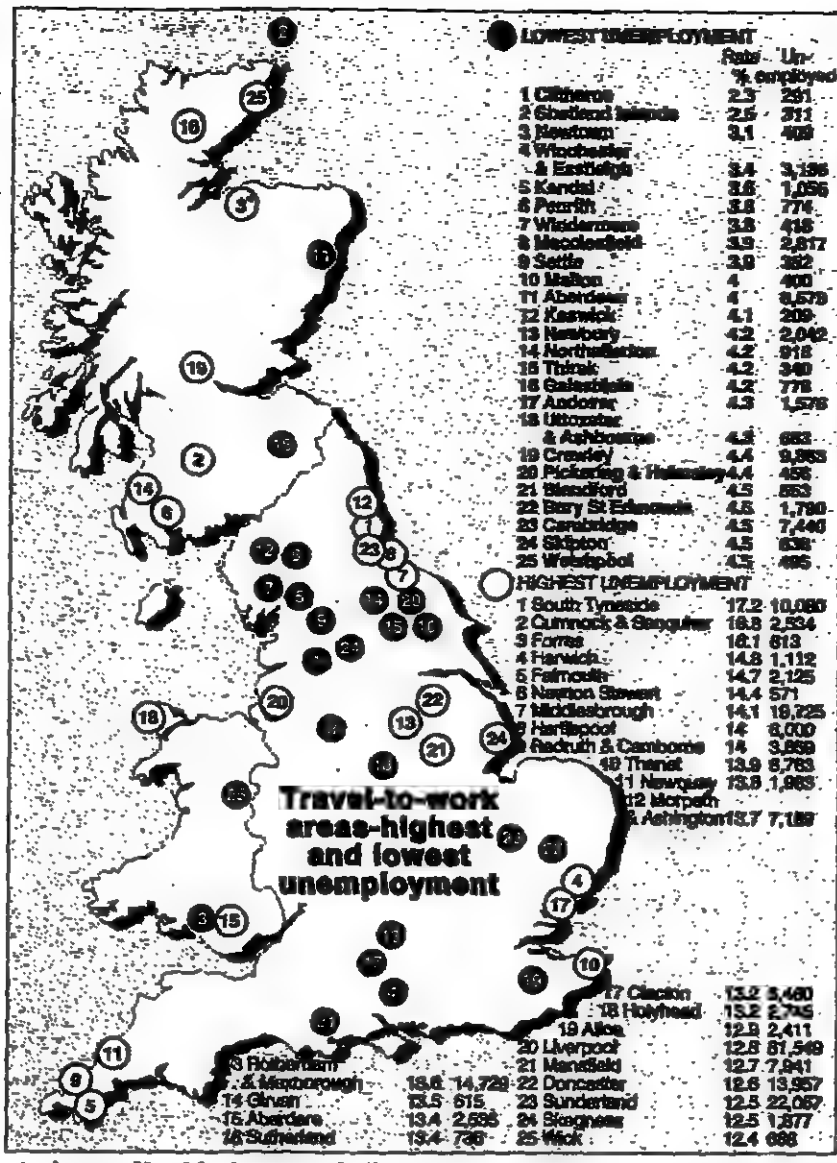
In advance of such a progress point, *The Times* today publishes details of the top 25 low unemployment areas of Britain. All are parts of the country where unemployment is at least half the national average, and some less than a third of it. Using figures held on government computers, *The Times* also publishes Britain's unemployment blackspots — the "travel-to-work areas" — as the Department of Employment defines them, which have the highest unemployment rates in the country. (Northern Ireland is excluded from both lists).

Most startling about the top 25 is the geographic pattern: 15 lie north of a line from the Mersey to the Humber — not the areas traditionally associated with low unemployment. Indeed, of the top ten, six are within a relatively small area in the North West, broadly around the Lake District.

Philip Oppenheim, Employment Minister, points out that northern areas were less hard hit by the heavily services-based recession than some parts of the south, while Professor David Sapsford, of the economics department of Lancaster University, says: "The North has adjusted more adequately to the downturn than the South has done. Many of these towns, like Kendal, Penrith and Windermere — they are very prosperous areas. If you look at the real economy per head...

Take the town with the lowest unemployment in the country, on the edge of this cluster, Clitheroe, in Lancashire. For those wedded to music-hall northern stereotypes of clogs and cloth caps, the very name of the town sounds like a joke. The reality of this pretty town, population about 15,000, and 2.3 per cent unemployment, could hardly be more different: at the heart of the Ribbles Valley, it is affluent, strongly owner-occupied, and solidly middle-class.

But despite its commuter base, which heads out of the town each morning for Blackburn and Burnley in the next valley, and even as far afield as Manchester and Merseyside, the town has its industrial core: companies such as 3M, ICI and Tarmac have plants in Clitheroe. Martin Hill, works manager of ICI's factory, which makes catalysts for the company's chemical processes worldwide, emphasises the importance of the industrial mix of the area: "There is such a wide variety of jobs, both manufacturing



A picture of health: the town of Clitheroe in Lancashire is affluent, strongly owner-occupied and solidly middle class

and services." He employs 150 at the plant, and underlines, too, the stability of his own and the local workforce as important to its jobs record.

Castle Cement, in Clitheroe since 1935, employs 400, although it lost 100 in 1992 in the depths of the recession. Peter del Strother, its works manager, underlines the important social factors of good schools and high quality of life — although he says that the high cost of housing in the town, compared with surrounding areas, is a concern for jobs and prosperity in the future. With very low unemployment, both companies accept their pay rates are above average.

Business leaders in the area also acknowledge the impact of a vigorous local authority. Stewart Bailey, of the local economic department of Ribbles Valley Borough Council — with the largest area and smallest population of any in Lancashire — agrees that the council tries to smooth the path for companies coming into the area in order to boost the economy and increase jobs.

Sue Bibby, manager of the JobCentre, describes the local labour market as "buoyant". She says long-term unemployment in the town is low, at about 30 per cent of the jobless, and while many local firms have little labour turnover, when a job does come in to the centre, in a small town they can quickly match it to someone looking for a job.

A touch further north, in the heart of the Lake District, agriculture is a key part of the mix in Kendal, where unemployment is a higher, though still very low, at 3.6 per cent.

Local industrialists and landowners cite farming as important for stability, since it is less immediately affected by the up-and-downswings of economic cycles. While agriculture employs far fewer than it used to, about 15 per cent of the male population of the surrounding area still works on the land.

Less middle-class than Clitheroe, Kendal has some poor residential areas, but its placing on the cusp of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales means that tourism and the services-related jobs it generates are important.

Audrey Taylor, economic development officer for South Lakeland District Council, lays stress on the sectoral blend of the area. Mindful of Barrow-in-Furness and Copehead, which are dominated by large single employers — VSEL shipbuilders and BNFEL Sellafield respectively — she emphasises the importance of small and medium enterprises: "We do have a lot of companies in the 25-200 range, where there are good growth prospects."

She acknowledges, too, the pulling power of an attractive area. "If companies are looking to relocate, and the MD happens to like golf and is a bit of a walker, then all things being equal on grants and assistance, they are likely to relocate to where there is a good quality of life."

While the northern factor is considerable in the low unemployment towns of Britain — and many of them now have low long-term unemployment — the pulling power of an attractive area. "If companies are looking to relocate, and the MD happens to like golf and is a bit of a walker, then all things being equal on grants and assistance, they are likely to relocate to where there is a good quality of life."

Yours faithfully,
ERIC HAMMOND,
General Secretary,
EETPU,
9 Dene Holm Road,
Northfleet,
Kent.

because spending on housing is, to a large degree, discretionary. However, commercial property rents are governed entirely by supply and demand. If the economy continues to expand, more commercial space will be needed, regardless of stable prices. In certain sectors of the market, such as top-grade office space in London and most retail, there is already a looming shortage. As to the upward-only rent review, hodge, developers

the richer areas of the South, such as Newbury, Cambridge or Crawley, all feature in the low unemployment top 25. As an example, Winchester in Hampshire was fed in the 1980s as the most prosperous town in Britain, with strong employment growth and many of the benefits of the new entrepreneurialism. But among the current top ten low unemployment towns, Winchester and Eastleigh has had it toughest in the recession, with its unemployment rate still at 4.9 per cent a year ago, having been at the lowest level among the ten when the downturn began. However, in the past 12 months, jobs have started to come back with a vengeance. Gill Saxton, business manager at the town's JobCentre, says: "We are now seeing many more skilled vacancies. Welders, fabricators, HGV drivers. We are getting quite a few vacancies through for building workers. That's significant."

Vacancies are 20 per cent up on a year ago, and unemployment in Winchester itself is down by more than 30 per cent in the last year, beaten only in the county by Andover, at 33 per cent. Ms Saxton says that employers and the unemployed are keen, too, to sign up to the Worklink scheme, which allows them to try work without losing their benefits.

But businesses, local authorities, training agencies and others in the local economies of such areas do not claim that the factors they see as contributing to their low unemployment are translatable. "We don't have a secret

formula for getting the dolle queues down," says Sue Bibby in Clitheroe. Ministers agree. They are sceptical about whether particular low unemployment areas can offer more broadly applicable lessons, though they emphasise the value of education, skills and a soundly based national economic framework.

All involved deny there is a blueprint to follow, and clearly the low unemployment in areas such as the Shetlands and Aberdeen reflect special factors — in this case, oil — impossible to duplicate.

As well as such structural points, sheer achievement, entrepreneurialism and effort seem to be factors too. Success breeds success: for those in areas with a small number of people out of work, low unemployment is itself a spur to jobs and growth, as people try to match the success they see around them. As ICI's Martin Hill in Clitheroe puts it: "People here are prepared to turn their hand to almost anything. They say: I've got a brain and a pair of hands — what can I do?"

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HIGSON,
Cavendish,
9 Ashley Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.

From Mr Philip Daubney
Sir, The claim by Dixons that the regional electricity companies are unfairly subsidising their retail outlets (Dixons accuses RECs of £250m cross-subsidies, January 12) has no substance. Electricity companies are not permitted to subsidise loss-making operations from core-business revenues, nor would it be economic sense for them to do so. This is monitored closely by Oftec, the electricity regulator, and a similar claim by Dixons was rejected by the OFT in November 1993. Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DAUBNEY,
Chief Executive,
Electricity Association,
30 Millbank, SW1.

From Mr Chris Higson
Sir, In case the eccentric letter from Mr Keith Hall, the Saatchi & Saatchi small shareholder, should be taken seriously, I would like to put another view.

When Mr Hall bravely bought his shares in 1991, the advertising agency's clients were reducing budgets in view of the uncertainty created by recession. Like other businesses, Saatchi & Saatchi had to instigate cuts and redundancies to maintain profitability to support the value of Mr Hall's shares while at the same time "tooling up" for future growth. Just when Mr Hall's investment was beginning to appear a shrewd one he could profit by in a year or two, in strides

Bombay puts
its money
on the CityJon Ashworth on the plan to transform
chaos into a leading financial centre

Bombay, city of crumbling buildings and congested roads, hopes to rise from the ashes of urban decay to become one of the world's leading financial centres. They might just pull it off.

Local investors have embarked on a concerted drive to put Bombay on the financial map. If they succeed — and there are formidable hurdles to be cleared — Bombay has a realistic chance of becoming a major player in the Asian region. India is expected to have the largest shareholder population in the world by the turn of the century. There are already more than 15 million local investors with 7,000 listed companies to choose from — nearly three times more than the London Stock Exchange — and about 90 per cent of India's stock market business is channelled through Bombay.

The difficulties, however, seem endless. India has 22 independent regional stock exchanges, answering only to themselves and often trading the same stocks in parallel. The stock market enjoyed a surge in volume last year — nearly £6.5 billion was raised in new issues — but lack of regulation remains a serious problem. Few have forgotten the £800 million stock market scandal of May 1992, which wiped more than a third off the value of the Bombay stock exchange in the space of a fortnight, and left thousands of shareholders out of pocket.

Foreigners have nevertheless rushed into Bombay. Barings opened a representative office in early 1994, and hopes to gain fully fledged banking status this year. Jardine Fleming opened an office in 1992. Barclays de Zoete Wedd is

setting up a representative office Credit Lyonnais, WI Carr and Smith New Court offer broking services. American firms including Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch are thick on the ground.

John Moore, head of Barings' local office, says Bombay could develop into the local answer to Singapore or Hong Kong, but driven purely by the domestic economy rather than the needs of neighbouring countries. A basic framework is needed before the city can even get close to realising its ambitions. Overall infrastructure is weak. Office space is expensive. Residential property is both expensive and hard to obtain. "You're paying Hong Kong prices for pretty poor quality property," says Mr Moore.

Underlying the chaos is a healthy attitude to saving and investment. The savings rate was estimated at \$57 million in 1993 — about 24 per cent of gross domestic product. There is a tradition of stock market investment, despite occasional rollercoaster rides brought on by the lack of liquidity.

As a first step, a promotional body, Bombay First, has been set up to pull the various strands together. Guests at the launch included Michael Cassidy, policy chairman at the Corporation of London, who speaks enthusiastically about Bombay's prospects. He believes the city is in with a realistic chance, provided politicians and businessmen rally together to put the basic building blocks in place.

Mr Cassidy says: "With the right leadership, it could become the next Hong Kong or Singapore, but business needs to collaborate with politicians if it is going to work."



The bullock cart must make way for bulls in the bourse

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Interim dividend per ordinary share of 5p (net)	3.2p	1.9p	+68%

- Full 6 months results from Arthur Lee now included as compared with 3/4 months included last year
- RSR division sold
- Strong financial position with gearing of 1% and cash and unutilised medium term borrowing facilities of £38.6m
- Disparity between interim and final dividends reduced
- Order intake of continuing operations in the last three months higher than in the corresponding period last year

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BANKS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Barclays Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	HSBC Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	London City	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Midland Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	NatWest Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Paragon Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Prudential	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Royal Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Santander	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	TSB Bank	100.00	+1.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

BREWERIES

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Kaiser Brewery	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Samuel Adams	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Tottenham Export	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Windsor	100.00	+1.00	10.00

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	Arrol-Johnston	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Balfour Beatty	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bechtel	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	Bois	100.00	+1.00	10.00

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

BUSINESS SERVICES

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

CHEMICALS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

HEALTHCARE

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

INSURANCE

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

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High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

BRITISH FUNDS

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

MINING

1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P/E
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Airways	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	+1.00	10.00
100.00	99.00	British Virgin	100.00	+1.00	10.00

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1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95	1994/95
High	Low	Company	Price	%	P

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Eurojustice in the balance

Russell Torr did not have a happy festive season. The 21-year-old, from Worktop is serving a 12-year sentence for rape in Spain. He was convicted after judges placed great weight on evidence that he was the man seen running away from the scene (outside a nightclub) shortly after the incident. A witness stated to the police that he was dancing with Torr at the time and he could not have been the running man.

Unfortunately, she was not present at the trial despite requests by the Spanish court to the British Government to serve a witness summons. The Home Office had replied to the Spanish court that on the information supplied, they could not trace the girl. After the trial the Torr family traced her through directory inquiries. She turned out to be a willing witness who, because she had heard nothing, believed the charge had been dropped.

The problems of obtaining crucial evidence from another country within the European Union are quite as damaging to justice as the problems of bail discussed in a previous article (The Times, October 18 1994). There has been a chorus of complaints from French lawyers and judges about the way official requests from their courts appear to be ignored or delayed. Often this leads to wholly unacceptable lengths of time in remand.

Josephine Conn, 64, the grandmother referred to in October and whose trial result is now pending after two years on remand in France on soft drugs charges, has spent much of this time awaiting the replies from Spanish authorities to a request from the

MPs meet today to tackle problems arising in international cases. Stephen Jakobi reports

French court made almost a year ago for assistance in the investigation.

The European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its additional protocol were ratified by Britain in 1990. Probably the worst feature of the convention is that it applies only to willing witnesses. Since there is no penalty for non-compliance with a witness summons, injustices both to the accused and to the prosecution will inevitably occur.

Investigations by Alan Beith (Liberal Democrat) and Paul Boateng (Labour), the Opposition front-bench spokesmen, on home affairs, have disclosed that Home Office implementation procedures make this bad situation worse. Unfortunately, the convention does not require that requests for service of process include details of the nature of the proceedings, but does require the foreign court to furnish the address of the person to be served.

Our Government has devised a cunning bureaucratic response to this problem. When requests for summonses are not submitted strictly in accordance with the convention, they are returned with an explanation that service has not been possible. In Torr's case, they had the passport number of the witness so that a simple internal inquiry

would have given them an address.

If the issuing authority is unable to provide further details but indicates that the nature of the proceedings makes the presence of the witness exceptionally important, the UK will reluctantly seek to locate and serve the summons on the individual concerned.

In practice, the local police are unlikely to be aware of the accuracy of foreign addresses and the mysterious workings of international conventions. Every movement of a witness summons from sender to responder within the system takes a number of months working its way up and down two governments' systems. The British Government's method of operating its discretion to shift the onus of further inquiry on to the issuing authority causes intolerable delay at best and must often lead to gross injustice.

The Home Office states that it is overwhelmed with requests for assistance under the convention. It currently handles about 3,200 requests a year for co-operation, including some 1,000 requests for service of witness summonses. It is obvious that tens of thousands of requests for information and many thousands of witness summonses are issued in the EU every year. From our own Home

Office experience, it is unlikely that most of these summonses are effective. Even if only one in ten of these requests concerns a vital witness, up to 1,000 miscarriages of justice occur annually from this cause alone.

The solutions required to deal with the problems of bail and evidence must involve the treatment of the EU as one country for certain purposes. A court in Athens must be satisfied that a defendant bailed to his home city of Liverpool can be brought to court with no more formality than if he lived in Greece. Greek witnesses who do not turn up to give evidence in Liverpool must suffer European standard penalties for contempt. The Treaty of Maastricht places the initiation of measures to harmonise justice under the direction of the Council of Ministers of Justice. In practice, decisions are in the control of the country holding the presidency, and that office changes hands every six months.

It is a recipe that surely accounts for much of the shambles that is European justice. For example, the United Kingdom set up a working party to examine ways of simplifying extradition during its presidency in 1992. Our French group has lobbied the French Ministry of Justice to make extradition a priority during its presidency, which began on January 1. The process will have to start all over again on July 1 when it is the turn of the Spanish.

There is no penalty for ignoring a witness summons

An increasing number of Members of Parliament from all parties are profoundly disaffected with apparent government indifference to constituents' problems in obtaining justice in Europe. Marjorie Mowlem, who has more than one current case involving constituents, supported by Sir Archibald Hamilton, Cynog Dafis and David Rendel, has convened a meeting this afternoon at the House of Commons with the object of setting up an all-party group to work on the problems involved. The chairmen of both the Foreign and Home Affairs Committees have been invited.

The concern is mirrored in the European Parliament, where MEPs' prominent among them John Stevens, Glyn Ford and Brian Crowley, have been actively involved. On both fronts, we may have the beginnings of a move to bring European justice into line.

● The author is chairman of Fair Trials International (081-332 2800).

Jurors who are in reasonable doubt

Every jury hearing a criminal trial in the Crown Court is told by the judge that the defendant is entitled to a verdict of "not guilty" unless the prosecution has made the jury sure of the defendant's guilt. Some judges add that being sure of the defendant's guilt means the same as being satisfied of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

A recent decision by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Victor v Nebraska* raises the important question of whether judges should give further assistance to juries on what being sure of guilt actually means.

Justice O'Connor stated on behalf of the Supreme Court that although proof by the prosecution beyond a reasonable doubt is "an ancient and honoured" aspect of the criminal justice system, "it defies easy explanation". The constitution "neither prohibits trial courts from defining reasonable doubt nor requires them to do so as a matter of course". The Supreme Court upheld convictions in two cases in which trial judges had tried to explain to juries what "reasonable doubt" meant, even though there were errors in the formulations adopted by those judges.

In her concurring judgment, Justice Ginsburg argued that there was a strong case for juries to be given more help in this matter. The words "beyond a reasonable doubt" are "not self-defining for jurors". Studies of jury behaviour in the United States have found that "jurors are often confused about the meaning of reasonable doubt" when the concept is left unexplained. Justice Ginsburg expressed her approval for the definition of reasonable doubt proposed by the Federal Judicial Centre as a model instruction for judges to give juries.

That instruction tells juries that the prosecution "has the burden of proving the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt". It then states that "proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the defendant's guilt. There are very few things in this world that we know with absolute certainty, and in criminal cases the law does not require proof that overcomes every possible doubt. If, based on your consideration of the evidence, you are firmly convinced that the defendant is guilty of the crime charged, you must find him guilty. If on the other hand you think there is a real possibility that he is not guilty, you must give him the benefit of the doubt and find him not guilty."

The English Court of Appeal has occasionally considered the meaning of "reasonable doubt", when criticising judicial definitions

which understated the obligations of the prosecution to prove the case against the accused. The Court of Appeal has explained that it does not suffice that juries are "pretty certain" of the defendant's guilt, or "reasonably sure", or "pretty sure". The Court has held that it is wrong to tell a jury that a reasonable doubt exists only if it is "one for which you could give reasons if you were asked", or if it was "the sort of doubt which might affect you in the conduct of everyday affairs". Judges who directed the jury in such terms were held to be wrong in law.

However, English law has not adopted a positive definition of what "reasonable doubt" does mean. Our law remains wedded to the approach adopted by Lord Goddard as Lord Chief Justice in a judgment delivered in 1952. He gave warning that whenever a court attempted to explain what is meant by "reasonable doubt", the explanation "tends to result in confusion rather than clarity". Therefore, the jury should simply be told that "it is not for the prisoner to prove his innocence, but for the prosecution to prove his guilt, and that it is the jury's duty to regard the evidence and see if it satisfies them so that they can feel sure" of guilt. If they are not sure, then they should find the defendant not guilty.

In 1976, Lord Justice Lawton stated on behalf of the Court of Appeal that in most cases "judges would be well advised not to attempt any gloss upon what is meant by 'sure' or what is meant by 'reasonable doubt'". Such comments are "more likely to confuse than help". He emphasised that "if judges stopped trying to define that which is almost impossible to define, there would be fewer appeals".

It is troubling that a legal concept so central to every criminal trial has been considered by the English judiciary to be so fragile that any attempt to explain it for the benefit of lay people risks confusion and error. As A.A.S. Zuckerman of University College, Oxford, points out in *The Principles of Criminal Evidence*, "it is difficult to believe that the expression 'beyond reasonable doubt' is self-explanatory in our pluralistic society. It can hardly be assumed that all jurors will have the same instinctive comprehension of the meaning of this expression."

Juries would benefit from an explanation of what lawyers mean by "reasonable doubt". As Justice Ginsburg of the United States Supreme Court suggested, the definition prepared by the Federal Judicial Centre "surpasses others in stating the standard succinctly and comprehensibly".

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Out to South Africa

SYDNEY Kentridge, QC, one of the Bar's top silks and the one briefed by the profession themselves when they sued Lord Hailsham, has been appointed as one of the 11 judges to sit in South Africa's new Constitutional Court.

The court, due to start sitting next month, will have power to strike down any legislation including Acts of Parliament judged to be in conflict with the Bill of Rights, and decide a range of key issues such as whether the death penalty should remain.

Mr Kentridge, of Brick Court Chambers, will sit only for the seven-week session in February, when the most important rulings are to be made. Mr Kentridge once practised in South Africa, where he often took on criminal cases for defendants such as Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Steve Biko, the Sharpeville Six and others.

Internal affair

THE HEAD of the project finance department in Latham & Watkins, the leading US law firm, abruptly departed last week. Partner Timothy Flato, who earned about \$700,000 last year, was asked to resign after an internal audit uncovered discrepancies in his expenses to the tune of \$100,000 in 1994. Randy Bassett, a partner, says: "Our own control system triggered the audit. Tim has agreed that he did it, resigned and has offered to make restitution."

It's an honour

THE TREASURY Solicitor, Gerald Hosker, who heads the 200-strong team of government lawyers, was awarded a knighthood in the New Year Honours. John Hayes, the Law Society secretary general, for his work spearheading society reform, and Michael Malone-Lee, head of policy at

the Lord Chancellor's Department and architect of the latest legal aid reforms. Among the judiciary Judge Robin David QC, resident judge at Chester, was awarded a knighthood.

Unison harmony

THE PUBLIC sector union, Unison, has reported winning £23 million in compensation for members in 1994. Almost 4,200 members won compensation for personal injury resulting from negligence by their employers.

Hot property

A BIRMINGHAM lawyer, Judith Gershon of Eversheds, has been named chairwoman for 1995 of the association Women in Property. With more than 500 members (lawyers, architects, designers, planners, surveyors, financial advisers, engineers and PR consultants), the association was founded in 1987 for women in the field to improve

their business opportunities and contacts.

Bar talk

A SENIOR solicitor is taking up a job at the Bar. David Hatcher, a senior litigation lawyer with Clifford Chance, is to become chief executive of the chambers of Michael Crystal QC, with responsibility for management and marketing.

Carry on writing

NEIL ADDISON, whose controversial suspension from the Crown Prosecution Service because of an article published in this paper last year led him to resign from the CPS, has reached an "amicable settlement" with the CPS. Mr Addison will be setting up in private practice. But if the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, QC, believes she has removed an awkward thorn from her side, she should think again. Mr Addison told the *Law Society Gazette* that his new year's resolution is "to have published twice as many articles in *The Times* in 1995".

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Shady empires of the little caesars

■ **GANGLAND VOLUME 2**
By James Morton
Little Brown, £15.99

ALREADY an explorer, in a succession of recent books, of the murky byways of London's underworld and the activities of corrupt police, James Morton, lawyer and legal commentator, has turned his attention to the Big Smoke's criminal cousins. In *Gangland Volume 2*, he ranges beyond London to the criminal worlds of Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, the Midlands and across the Irish Sea to Dublin.

Here is the world of the Glasgow hard men which produced some of Britain's toughest criminals. Morton retells the story of the ice-cream wars and the life of Arthur Thompson, a man even his lawyer described as having "gunmetal eyes". A candidate for the title of boss of bosses, he eventually died from a heart attack.

Morton reports the day in the 1920s when 36 of the finest criminals in the Midlands set off for the Epsom Derby with plans to curtail the activities of a gang of Italians running the protection of bookmakers. The attack ended in fiasco when the Midlands men were arrested by a sergeant who took the spark plugs out of their charabanc and threatened to shoot the first man who moved.

In Manchester's Moss Side these days, it is the criminals who have the guns. Morton describes the 1990s underworld, fuelled by drugs and driven by youth gangs. Morton ranges far and wide to uncover characters within the underworld, such as the former Edna the Pen, and their opponents, such as the Scotland Yard detective nicknamed Charlie Ardal.

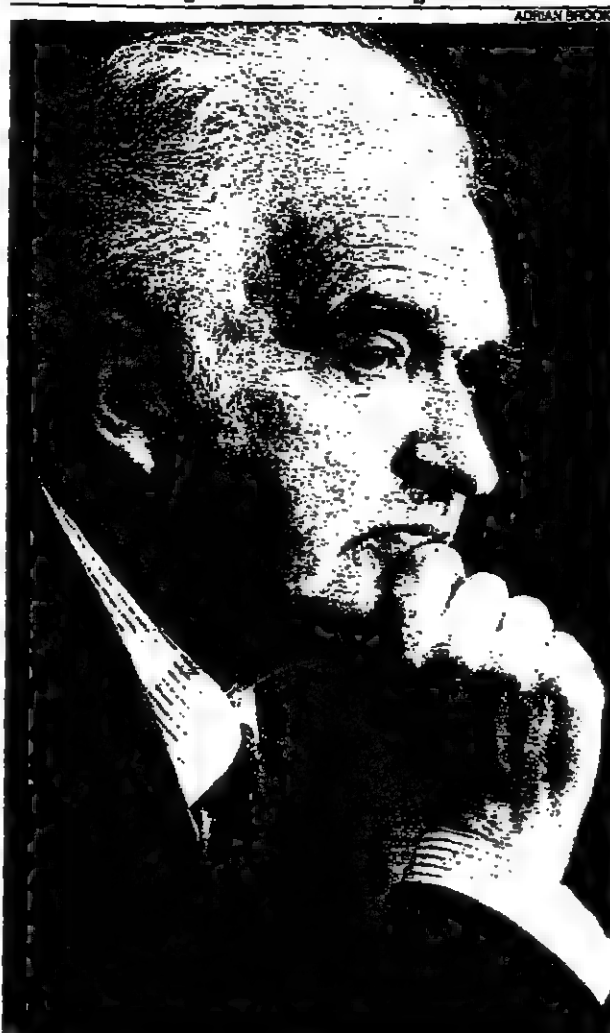
The tales are told with a flourish in a fascinating, useful and lively history for criminologists, lawyers and the general reader.

STEWART TENDLER

● Morton's other recent books include *Bent Copsey* (Faber Books, paperback, £5.99).

Who needs legal aid?

Roger Smith argues that reform of legal aid must go hand in hand with the wider overhaul of the system of civil justice



Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, is right to call for a revision of the legal aid system — but for the wrong reasons

There must be change. Lord Mackay of Clashfern demanded in his well-travelled speech on legal aid last week. The Lord Chancellor identified his main problem as the rise in legal aid costs caused by "supplier-induced inflation" — the effect of lawyers in driving up costs. He is, however, in danger of the general's classic mistake: fighting the previous war.

Dealing with rapidly escalating legal aid costs was yesterday's problem. There was a costs "blowout" in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This has raised expenditure by 150 per cent since 1985 and doubled it since 1990-91. However, expenditure has now been stabilised, largely by cuts to remuneration and eligibility. The latest departmental estimates show legal aid costs to be relatively static, rising in real terms by only £70 million this year and £70 million in 1995-96.

In any event, the past rise in costs could have not have been wholly attributable to suppliers' actions. Government policy itself caused a large part of the rise. Lord Mackay personally prioritised greater legal aid expenditure on children in reforms associated with the Children Act, for which 18,000 certificates were granted last year. In 1986, when he was Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of Marylebone introduced a statutory police-station duty-solicitor scheme that cost £87 million last year, 6 per cent of the total legal aid received by solicitors.

Furthermore, the increased numbers using civil legal aid are in line with those using other services for people in crisis. From 1981 to 1991, there was roughly a 50 per cent rise in the annual number of civil legal certificates. On the Government's figures in *Social Trends*, that was in line with the increase in the use of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Samaritans. Use of Relate, the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Young People's Counselling and Advisory Service roughly doubled during the same period. The congruence of these increases suggests more need by consumers, rather than the better marketing of service providers.

Partial identification of causes leads to flawed solutions. For instance, there is evidence that the demand for civil legal aid is changing in favour of larger and more expensive cases. Into this category comes expanding litigation relating to children and medical negligence. Legislative changes make estimates of the former impossible: the latter has almost doubled in the past five years.

As these cases come to be billed, they will cause an avoidable rise in the average cost of civil cases. To the extent that rising expenditure is not caused by supplier-induced inflation, capping the budget is not the answer. Its effect is to penalise consumers by reducing services.

No major advance in access to justice, particularly if expenditure is limited, can be made without policies that link changes to the legal process with those to the assistance

given to people within that process. Although this seems self-evident, Lord Mackay has just acted as if such co-ordination were not necessary. Lord Woolf of Barnes has been sent off to conduct a review of civil justice which is to run parallel but totally separately from his own consideration of legal aid.

Under current arrangements, co-ordination of policy in the various aspects of legal services is positively discouraged. The imminent creation of a stand-alone Courts Agency may make this worse. Already, key opportunities fall through the cracks between different expenditure heads. For instance, the civil justice review recommended a package of reform in 1989 that included savings from greater use of the small claims procedure and a small amount of compensating expenditure on a duty county court representation scheme.

A relatively cheap proposal was worked up by the Legal Aid Board but rejected by Lord Mackay because of costs implications for legal aid. Yet representation schemes cheaper than full legal aid may justify greater devolution or diversion of cases by which savings to the combined costs of legal aid and the courts could be made.

A Green Paper on legal aid in the spring is probably now unstoppable. Soon after its publication, Lord Woolf is likely to deliver his own consultation paper on civil justice. There is no reason to think that it will be less far-reaching than was his paper on prison reform. Repetition of this report's fate, which was to be ignored in the policymaking process, must be avoided.

To be truly fundamental, any reform of legal aid must await the outcome of a combined debate on civil justice and legal aid. Its centrepiece should be the changes required in the provision of information, assistance, procedure and substantive law so that society provides equal access to justice for all. Then we should decide how much inequality we can afford.

● The author is director of the Legal Action Group.

Job contracts must move with the times

The Saatchi affair has thrown a legal spotlight on terms of employment

Saatchi affair will start to shape clients' willingness to use litigation to resolve cases of this kind.

Three of the departing Saatchi executives have turned to the firm of Olswang for legal advice. Not only does Olswang have a very strong reputation in the media and advertising field, but it also has a lot of expertise in



Maurice Saatchi: famed as a guru-like figure

looking after the employment interests of successful individuals. Though the firm could not comment on the details of the Saatchi affair, Simon Olswang, a senior partner, said that it was able to deal not just with the employment questions but also with the many complex Stock Exchange issues thrown up by events.

Typically under discussion in these cases are issues of confidentiality, restrictive covenants and the enforceability of so-called "garden leave".

For the employer, there is a careful judgment to be

made over whether enforcing such restrictions is strategically useful, weighing up the loss of goodwill against the potential damage that a departing executive might inflict.

According to William Balfour of Cameron Mackay Hewitt, advertising agencies are always going to be vulnerable to these developments so long as they are "personality driven".

He says: "In America, firms such as JWT and Grey have managed to develop a corporate brand image stronger than the personalities of individual executives. In Britain, however, many agencies are still dependent on personality cults."

"My theory is that in the advertising world how well people are treated is in inverse proportion to their seniority. The problem is that top people can go out of favour very quickly. In such circumstances, it is not surprising that disputes arise."

One way around this, Mr Bagehor says, is for the executive not to have long-term service contracts. Even so, many advertising agencies have been taking the lead in asking their legal advisers to develop ever more sophisticated employment contracts that protect their interests.

Gareth Edwards of Lewis Silkin, another firm with a strong record of working with advertising clients, says that restrictive covenants are being drafted with particular care. He adds: "Firms are much more willing than they used to be to try to enforce these covenants."

Mr Edwards believes that one problem is that executives may have clients in several European countries and have to be pursued in each jurisdiction to make the covenant stick.

The Saatchi saga will become an object lesson for the advertising industry and its lawyers in what can go wrong, when contracts of employment no longer fit the nature of the business.

EDWARD FENNELL

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Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 7 February 1995.

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You must have spent at least ten years as a barrister or solicitor in a common law jurisdiction, specifically with experience in the practice of civil litigation and criminal law. Judicial experience as a County/Crown Court judge or equivalent, together with a background in administration, will add substantial weight to your application.

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You must have experience in both civil and criminal practice and procedure and in legal training. Ideally you will have experience in judicial training of lay justices, which should include the design and implementation of training programmes and will almost certainly have been gained working within common law jurisdiction. You may have experience of sitting as a Magistrate and of working with indigenous Pacific people. Proven computer skills, and the ability to design new systems and train users, would be an advantage.

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MUSIC page 38

Three provocative early
operas reveal the saucy
side of Paul Hindemith's
creative personality

ARTS

VISUAL ART page 39

A rising generation of
young women artists
is showcased at
the Festival Hall



PREVIEW: As Arsenal follow Lineker into the West End, Simon Tait reports on the new Big Match

The stage is over the moon

From the terraces to the stalls, it seems, but a short step. This week wearers of red-and-white scarves and bobble hats may be seen blinking in the unaccustomed yellow light of the West End instead of the white glare of Highbury's floodlights. They are not lost; they are going to the theatre. To watch football.

On Thursday, *Fever Pitch* opens at the Arts Theatre. For a fringe-originated show with a top-price ticket of £14 it has had almost unprecedented advance sales of £40,000, ensuring at least a three-month run. George Graham, the Arsenal manager, will be at the opening night, as will erstwhile Arsenal stars such as Liam Brady and Charlie George.

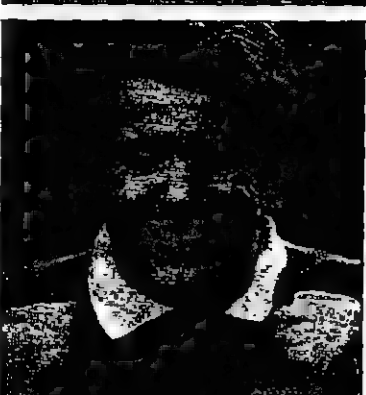
The fans will see a show of two halves, as John Motson would say: 45 minutes each way, and starring Stephen North in Paul Hodson's anarchic adaptation of Nick Hornby's memoirs of an Arsenal fan. The book was a publishing sensation, with sales of 300,000, and the play has already been a critical success. So reviews, good or bad, are unlikely to make much difference to attendances in the all-seater theatre. What probably did make a difference was the wholehearted co-operation of Arsenal itself, which circulated booking details through its mailing lists.

Born at last year's Brighton Festival, the play was the hit of the Edinburgh Fringe and had a highly successful short autumn tour. "It wasn't the kind of audience that was used to the theatre atmosphere," says Hodson, who also directs. "But you could get them involved, which was the idea, and sometimes it can go wrong. In Newcastle a bloke in a black and white scarf got up and shouted, 'Why isn't this play about Newcastle United?' and for once Steve was stumped for a riposte."

Nevertheless, the play may have tapped the elusive "new audience" that producers, arts managers and even Heritage Secretaries have been desperately seeking. "It's easy to say that we're looking to youth for a new audience, or opening up the theatre for young people," says producer David Johnson. He picked the show up on the Edinburgh Fringe, as he did two years ago with another cult hit, *Anorak of Fire*, which is about trainspotters and about to begin another tour. "There's an awful lot of rubbish talked about audience development, but we're in the business of putting on shows people are going to want to see. If that means we've found a new audience, and maybe we have, then great."

It is not a sudden phenomenon. Hodson discovered that football plays had been happening in Glasgow for some time. One about Patrick Thistle had been an unaccommodated flop one year ago about Rangers was more successful, although only locally.

But the genre leader seems to have been a play that was not really about football at all. It was the 1991 Edinburgh Fringe hit, *An Evening with Gary Lineker*, a sex comedy by Arthur Smith and Chris England that was set in a Majorca holiday flat with the 1990 World Cup semi-final taking place on the television set in the background. It toured, did two



West End Gooner: Stephen North as Nick Hornby in the adaptation of *Fever Pitch*, Hornby's bestselling story of his life as an Arsenal fan

West End runs and was adapted for television. One evening the whole 1990 World Cup England team, including the then manager Graham Taylor, went to see it.

"Our estimate is that it has been seen by close to a million people, not counting the television audience which was about eight million," says Rupert Gavin of Incidental Theatre, which produced *An Evening with Gary Lineker*. "We did some market research during the run and found that 52 per cent of the audience had never been to a play before. There was a sudden

feeling in the audiences which you get in football crowds, of a shared experience. We'd all been there."

Neil Watson was one of those first-timers, taken to the West End to see *An Evening with Gary Lineker* by footballing colleagues at Leyton Orient, where he is the community relations officer. Faced with tackling an increasingly serious problem of racism in football, Watson found the play — and his wife's experience of having seen a theatre-in-education group at work at their children's school — inspiring enough for him to commission Arc

Theatre to write and produce a play, *Kicking Out*, about football and race issues. It won an ABSA sponsorship award and, having played to East End and Essex school audiences, is now touring the country.

For Johnson, who recently saw his first football match, *Fever Pitch* is a further stage in the progression of fringe theatre away from stand-up comedy to drama. It is a one-man show, cheap to produce, and is comedy with the narrative spiced up with a few chantable songs.

Johnson and Hodson are planning

to follow the theme with a new collaborative play about Manchester United, which has the working title of *The Red Devils*. "It's not a matter of converting people to the theatre, but of having a good time together," Hodson says. "Football is highly personal to a huge section of British society. If we can get to something they identify with individually, that's what drama is about, too."

Fever Pitch is in preview at the Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London WC2 (071-836 2132), and opens on Thursday.

POP: Rhythm, blues and emerald green

Four credits to old Ireland

MARY Black, her sister Frances, Sharon Shannon and Mary Coughlan are substantial stars in Ireland, and their presence here perhaps triggered homesick blues for some people who sat, choked with tears, through some of the sadder songs. Others cheered mightily whenever musicians from their home counties were introduced.

The variety of music was quickly apparent. Coughlan mixed plaintive songs with the faintly ribald, and traditional styles with soft rock and tango rhythms. Drummer Dave Early and saxophonist Richie Buckley, members of the evening's core band, complemented a delivery from Coughlan that lacked nothing in attitude. Indeed, any artist who chooses to augment a black velvet suit with a diaphanous shawl, covered with what looked like dead mice, can be assured of an audience's full attention.

Frances Black picked up on the jazzy elements in Coughlan's set, before moving on to some quieter material, well-suited to the breathless hush in her tones. After a short interval, Shannon's accordion-led set was to redefine the boundaries surrounding folk dance music. This diminutive

Mary Black et al
Apollo, W6

virtuoso played reels and traditional airs with — as a ska-rhythmed dance named after calypso star the Mighty Sparrow showed — an open-minded approach to rhythm. Fiddler Mary Custy contributed mightily to the fast turns required by the music.

It proved the perfect build-up to Mary Black's stylish acoustic rock. Formerly a member of De Dannan, Black has blended her experience as a traditional singer with a phrasing and a restlessness redolent of blues and soul. One of her best songs was a version of Billie Holiday's "Don't Explain". Two spirited encores, for which Black was joined by her fellows, picked up the pace. McEvoy's "A Woman's Heart" passed into a version of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry", which earned standing ovations.

Their last offering, a cover of Annie Lennox and Aretha Franklin's "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves", captured perfectly the feeling of celebration that pervaded the concert.

LOUISE GRAY

Unknown heroes

JODECI (that's joe-duh-see), the R&B quartet from North Carolina, have precisely one week to their name in the British Top 20 singles chart.

But their first UK appearance in two years has been one of the hottest tickets of the season. The 25,000 rabid fans who filled Wembley Arena twice over look up to Jo Jo, K-Ci, Mr Dalvin and De Vante Swing as the ultimate in, if you'll pardon the shopping list, rap/swingbeat/soul.

The two pairs of brothers' self-produced second album, *Diary of a Mad Band*, released last year, matched the momentum of their 1991 debut, *Forever My Lady*, with its mixture of traditional soul flavours and a large scoop of in-your-face 1990s attitude. One could taste those ingredients as the group arrived decked out in jailbird outfits, with dogs barking, bombs crashing and police lights flashing. But no sooner were the strip suits off than they were coming on like latter-day Temptations, close-harmonising through "Feenin'" —

Jodeci
Wembley Arena

that one fleeting moment in the mainstream last year. Thus did they continue, reviving the collective pulse of the female contingent with the usual pelvic punctuations, even if their testosterone count was never quite a match for the likes of R. Kelly.

The leisty four spun through hits from both albums, including "Forever My Lady", "Come & Talk To Me" and "Cry For You", in a surprisingly quick-fire manner, complete with revue-style closing chords from an innocuous band. But they had difficulty in projecting any soulful intensity across such a cold hangar of a venue, and lost the goodwill of their faithful by beginning a messy and indecisive departure after less than an hour. To appropriate a legal phrase, a performance that was sub-Jodeci.

PAUL SEXTON

THEATRE: A dour opening to the London International Mime Festival; and a thought-provoking double-bill

The puppeteers of Stockholm's Marionette-teatern, kicking off the London International Mime Festival with their stylised, sometimes genuinely spooky vision of *The Ghost Sonata*, pass in slow-motion. Grey-faced in top hats, they step like undertakers in some sub-aquatic afterlife. Then all three suddenly fix the audience with glittering eyes, and break into a cranky dance — partly funeral tap-routine, partly tribal drill.

The emaciated dolls that the puppeteers proceed to animate can also be unnerving. Embodying the Old Man, the Mummy, the vampire Cook and the other characters of Strindberg's weird classic, they have faces out of Munich and thin, lifeless limbs. Held with unsettling tenderness in the puppeteers' hands, they float through the air with the dreaminess of small souls in

Puppets at a funeral

The Ghost Sonata
Purcell Room

limbo or with predatory fiendish ecstasy. The skeletal milkmaid, in a white smock, jets ethereally like an avenging angel.

The eeriness of their malevolent, enigmatic encounters owes much to the soundtrack of pulsating throbs, piping flutes, squawks and cavernous splashing. Strindberg's mansion thus hovers between celestial outer space, Miss

Haversham's, and some gothic subterranean lake.

Still, the evening has its longeurs. When the spoken word enters, the production weakens. The young puppeteer handling the old Colonel has a fine command of English but doesn't throw himself into the persona. Helena Nilson, however, immerses herself totally, and is terrific screeching and twitching as she manipulates the Mummy, a beak-nosed old crone, like a savage parrot.

Pallid make-up, dark glasses and black umbrellas aren't the most original ingredients in mime to suggest the morbid. Moreover, several sequences in American director Roman Paska's adaptation are narratively obscure. Yet images of arresting suggestiveness arise in the course of the evening.

KATE BASSETT

Regard it as an SOS

Joe Pinzauro composed the meatier half of this double-bill he calls *Salvation Gate*, only to find they had all died by the time he delivered it. Thus they were denied the chance of bringing to life a situation very like their own. Some members of the therapeutic group that Pinzauro evokes in his tough, compassionate *Raft of the Medusa* clearly have longer to live than others; but one of them has just died and the HIV virus is eating away the others.

The sinking of the French frigate *Medusa*, inspired both a painting by Gericault and a chapter in Julian Barnes's *History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*, and now gives Pinzauro a suggestive title. Some 150 survivors on a rickety raft apparently tried and failed to do what Aids patients are currently doing: attract the attention of potential rescuers. But *Medusa* is not a polemical piece. Tim Luscombe's London Gay Theatre wants only to remind what it calls a "ruined audience" that there are terminally sick people out there, desperately and sometimes gallantly dealing with the prospect of dropping off the horizon. *Medusa* has its weaknesses, most of them caused by

Salvation
Gate, Notting Hill



Conflict: Marcus D'Amico and Carmela Marner

Pinzauro's fear of writing too plotless a piece. The revelation that a film actor (Nigel Whitney) come to observe the group is both gay and HIV-positive is too predictable. The rumour at the denouement, involving a straight journalist (Marcus D'Amico) secretly taping the session, seems pretty melodramatic. But when the genuine sufferers are bickering, joking, musing, weeping, or exposing their innards, the play wholly convinces. Some are gay, but others,

mostly the women, have been infected by incautious sex or dirty needles. Lolly Susi's Cora, furious at being the victim of what she sees as others' irresponsibility, has her moments, as do Harold Finley's Tommy, a gentle queen whose brain is beginning to evaporate, and Natasha Williams's Nairobi, a mute heroin addict.

But the mood of embattled sharing and caring is best communicated by Carmela Marner, playing a teenager abandoned by her Aids-infected boyfriend, and Lawrence Elman's Alan, a surly druggie. When she embraces his head, peppered as it is with cancer, you feel what it must be like to be lost in the Aids ghetto.

The same cast appears in a first half consisting of short sketches, some whimsical, some mildly funny, and just one authentically powerful. That shows a suicidal father in search of reassurance that his dead son is not yet forgotten. Allan Corduner, also a psychotherapist in *Medusa*, belittles out the character's rage and pain like some great wounded animal. If London Gay Theatre can continue to attract actors of his class, its voice will carry far.

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THE ROYAL BALLET

A new South Bank exhibition purports to put the fun back into the avant-garde. Richard Cork reports

From the outset, then, "It's A Pleasure!" turns out to be far from innocuous. If playfulness forms an important part of the

“From the outset, the exhibition seems far from innocuous.”

The same uneasy responses are aroused by Witlshire's *Casanova*, a computer-generated image dominating a large screen at the back of the exhibition space. When the animated sequence begins, we are confronted with a beautiful white dish. Suddenly a golden soufflé emerges from it, pushing upwards to a prodigious height. There it stands, commanding and erect. But the moment of phallic self-

The third chandelier, though, is the most sinister of all. Dangling near the floor, if on the point of collapse, it is burdened with a gruesome array of crystallised fruits. A white layer has settled on these pomegranates, pineapples, grapes and tangerines. Rot will probably set in during the show's run, reinforcing the air of dilapidation.

Like so many of the art on view here, Godfrey is brimming about a fusion of comic and the macabre. It is her sculpture's hallucinatory impact accounts for the agitated state of the figure. Jennet Thomas's painting is nearby. All based on Masters, mainly from

Invasion of the blobs: Laura Godfrey-Isaacs's *Monstrous*, one of several ironic pieces on show at the Festival Hall

National Gallery, they rob the original pictures of their equanimity. Just as Francis Bacon once reduced Velazquez's Pope to a howling grotesque, so Thomas assails Gainsborough's daughters, Reynolds's admiral and Drouais's Madame de Pompadour.

The daughters look distraught, their faces streaked with brushstrokes reminiscent of angry tears. As for the beaming Pompadour, her phump complacency gives way to the pallor of a phantom.

If these alarming painted

Images seek out unease beneath the smiling surface. Annie Griffin's video performs a similar operation on a photograph of her family taken 30 years ago. It is a classic all-American line-up. While mother and father beam behind them, the five Griffin children sit on their garden wall and radiate clean-cut, sun-burnished *joie de vivre*. Griffin, however, takes each of these faces and shows us how much they have changed. She questions them in turn and their mutual affection

The video ends with a mysterious, dream-like sequence, where Griffin greets her parents on a runway, and then leaves them for an unknown pilot in a waiting light aircraft. As she approaches him, arrayed in her most glamorous dress, the plane

● "It's a Pleasure!" is at the Festival Hall, Balroom Floor, London SE1 until Feb 19. More work by Emma Rushion is "Pleasure When Nervous" at Atlantis Gallery, 146, Brick Lane, London E1, and Laura Godfrey Isaac's solo show opens at T Gallery at John Jones, 1 Mor Place, London N4 on Jan 26.

In at the birth of cool

MEMBERSHIP of Bill Ashlon's National Youth Jazz Orchestra is generally a guarantee of quality. Over the years, the band has nurtured a great many musicians now prominent in jazz, among them trumpeters Guy Barker and Gerard Presencer and saxophonists Chris Hunter, Dave O'Higgins and Nigel Hitchcock. Both saxophonists Julian Siegel and Alan Phil Robson are products of the system, and, like the enthusiastic musicians they received from the Vortex audience is a reliable guide, they look set fair to add their names to its list of distinguished alumni.

The most immediately attractive feature of the band's sound is its eerie vitality. One of Siegel's chief inspirations is US saxophonist Joe Lovano, much of whose best work is performed in pianoless groups in front lines alongside guitarists such as Bill Frisell and John Scofield — both acknowledged influences on Robson. The space and freedom resulting from the piano's absence was fully exploited by both co-leaders.

**Julian Siegel/Phil
Robson Quartet**
Vortex, N16

Whether simply stretching out over the familiar changes of standards such as "Autumn Leaves" and "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend", picking their way carefully through unusual arrangements of Bill Evans' "Blue In Green" or "Like Someone In Love", or playing their own cogent compositions, Siegel and Robson proved to be subtle, thoughtful improvisers, ever attentive to tonal beauty and their solo overall shape.

A crucial factor in the band's success in capitalism is on the absence of a piano with its superb rhythm section. Steve Wains's rich but light bass, and Winston Clifford's constant bristling inventiveness on drums, served not only to propel the group but to flesh out its sound, setting Robson's considered fluency and Siegel's warm, liquid tenor tone to perfection.

Given that both Robson and Siegel are still in their twenties, and that Siegel also plays bass, it would seem likely that each has an extremely bright musical future.

Incidentally, in last Wednesday's review, George C. Man's rhythm section was described as "bleak" rather than, as intended, "flea." Apologies to Messrs. Joseph Green and Taylor.

CHRIS PARKER

AROUND THE

"WARWORKS: Women. Photography and the Art of War" is an exhibition of photographs by women that takes a sideways look at its subject. Blood, guts and heroism are replaced mainly by a process akin to archaeology, in which artists work backwards towards the past. A silent and sunny First World War battlefield photographed a decade ago by Deborah Bright acts as an empty ground to which a combination of knowledge and imagination can be applied. Masumi Hayashi's panoramic collages of the sites of Japanese prisoner-of-war compounds in the American desert embody an aptly wind-swept, tumbleweedy desolation. The range of work is enormous and, apart from gender, connections sometimes seem tenuous. Anna Noggle's photographs of her fellow Second World War pilot veterans convey a quite different meaning from work made by young women with no such first-hand experience. **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 0T1-938**
85001 until end of March

- A large solid cube reaching to an inch or so above the height of an average visitor almost fills the gallery space.
- What looks at first like matted grey carpet turns out to be an elaborate covering of magnetically charged iron filings.
- Swirls of them swirl and swirl, sprung astrakhan-like tightly.
- This piece represents a departure from the dark polictic imagery of Mona Hatoum's earlier work, a move towards a more formal language dependent on an expanding repertoire of raw material.

White Cube, 44 Duke Street, London SW1 (W1 8RT) until February 25

...of the works in David Medalla's semi-retrospective

Bubbling over with ideas: one of the words in the book is "bubbling over" which means to be full of ideas. This shows

making sculpture and performance works for at least three. At his semi-retrospective, which takes place in a warehouse under the title "The Secret History of the Mondrian Fan Club II", it is probably better to consider the paintings in terms of the sculpture, the kinetic in terms of the static, and to regard any impromptu performance as a kind of historical bonus. Any misapprehensions can be addressed by the artist himself, who stays around his own exhibition much more than is usual. As one enters the exhibition, a large neon piece called *Kinetic Mudras for Piet Mondrian* introduces the theme of Mondrian's visit to this country, while paintings bearing large geometric patches of colour make direct reference to Mondrian's work. The central focus is a number of door or gateway-shaped pieces, which are

transparent constructions that push a foam of bubbles up, out, and through their sides and corners. Medalla retains an anachronistic faith in the power of an artist to make things happen.

Third Floor, 55 Gee Street, London EC1 (071-636 1930) until February 14

□ "Please don't hurt me" is the title of an exhibition in which heaps of videos and hours of quasi-artistic footage — either once banned or never seen — show the American artist Bob Flanagan being force-fed, or engaging in an imaginative range of self-mutilation. The exhibition, which is "about pain" also includes crass cartoon illustrations in pencil, as well as a lot of cutouts and texts. Probably the most conservative part at least "artistic" arrangement is the self-help bomb-making equipment laid out in a convincing

ly heavily dependent on a tenuous relationship between sire and disgust.

Cabinet Gallery, 8 Clive Mansions, 429 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 0TW (071 4252) until January 28

□ In a café which coarsens sort of Internet existentialism from a bank of computer screens, any exhibition of pictures would hardly startle. Alex Berka's chance-generated graphic vision of a Great Classical God of a Grand Rocco Woman is humorous and knowing descendants of early Mode collage technique, in which inappropriate images played in unlikely relationships.

Cyberia, 39 Whitfield St London W1 (071-209 4252) until February 3

SACHA CRADDO

OPERA: O'Neill's first steps out of place

Moor in need of more time

Otello
Covent Garden

YOU have to admire Dennis O'Neill for choosing to sing his first Otello, not in the dead-end obscurity of a regional theatre here or abroad, but at the Royal Opera House, And, in addition, to sing it with what turned out to be a pretty routine revival of Elijah Moshe's eight-year-old production, a revival that, for all its endless boasts of starry and experienced colleagues.

It would be unfair to his talent to suggest that this was much more than a first sketch, and if I were in a bad mood I might also suggest that it is unfair to expect audiences to pay current Covent Garden prices to witness a first sketch (ENO prices and an audience genuinely interested in the development of native artists would be quite another matter). But there was enough to indicate what an O'Neill Otello could one day be.

On the plus side is the

natural warmth and musicality in his phrasing, the velvety beauty of his tone, and a certain elemental power and lack of artifice in his stage persona that suit the role well. He can still sing softly and sweetly at the top, and Verdi would have been delighted with his expressive singing in the love duet, with every pianissimo in place. And, simply as singing, the death scene was extremely beautiful, with a telling use of colour and dynamic shading.

What O'Neill lacks as yet is the ability to slip into overdrive, to stun the audience with the fullness and

just once — at “A Terra, e di piangi”, when he throws the demonia down to the ground — suggests that this will come in time, and he simply hasn’t the interpretative experience to do justice to the great monumental logues or the cries of “sangue!” But he could gain it through intensive work with a really good conductor and director.

Sergei Leiferkus repeated his riveting largo, terrifying in its open-faced innocence, but with a sneer of collusion at the audience after the vengeance duet that must have stopped every clock in WC2.

His largo is an intellectual and Elena Prokina, singing Desdemona here for the first time, similarly plays her as woman too bright to be able even to conceive of any rational explanation for her husband’s behaviour.

This made her helpless to
ror in the last act all the more
affecting: the Willow Song
every line of which was
thought, has never (for now)
made greater effect. She sang
with secure, silvery tones
throughout, matching
O'Neill's pianissimos in
first act to stirring effect.

Ensemble could have been
crisper under Carlo Rizzi's
direction; another rehearsal
two might not have com-
miss. He conducted the pro-
lyrical music sensitively,
the dramatic paragraphs in
a little more backbone.

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By ROBERT KIRLEY

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SPORTS STAFF

four years ago.
 □ Shane Warne, Merv Hughes and Damien Fleming are being rested from the game between Victoria and England due to start on Friday.

88-90.2 RADIO 3: FM-90.2-
1-94.6: LHV 198. RADIO 5:
RADIO: 1152kHz/281m; FM
GLR: FM 94.8; WORLD
FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN:
Compiled by Peter Dour and

Praise be, I do believe I care what happens

It is religion or television that is supposed to be the opium of the people? I can never quite remember. But there can be absolutely no doubt that a combination of the two is one of the strongest sedatives known to man — religion on television or, the knock-out version, other people's religion on television. Instant torpor at three yards can be guaranteed.

So it is to the considerable credit of all involved with *Signs and Wonders* (BBC 2), a drama jam-packed with other people's beliefs, that after one or two head-nodding moments early on (arguments over the Age about the Nicene creed have that effect on me), I arrived at the closing credits alert and really quite anxious to find out what happens next. Quite why, though, still puzzles me. For a more charming bunch than the ultra-dysfunctional Palmore family you could not hope to meet.

Daughter Claire (Jodie May) is

in Los Angeles, a member of a cult convinced that mankind's salvation can only be delivered by a "superannuated Singaporean" who drives a stretch limo with the licence plate, FATHA. Her hobbies are thirty-fishing for lost souls at bus stations and dressing up in white nightgowns, but so far not at the same time.

Her elder brother Stephen (Michael Maloney) also has problems, starting with terminal unpleasantness. A university lecturer in philosophy, he has little time for religion, his parents, his son or his students but plenty for the man from M15 who is blackmailing him. His hobbies are the works of Cornelius van Darnme, presumably the kick-butt champion of deconstructionist thought.

Such awful offspring can only be the product of awful parents and Michael Eaton's script duly delivered. As the Rev Timothy Palmore, David Warner had the pick of the

parts last night, helped by the reasons for his state of decay being readily apparent. Palmore may be an Anglican, but his problems are straight out of Graham Greene. Haunted by his former curate, who has gone charismatic in a camouflage jacket and stolen his congregation, Palmore has taken to drowning his doubts in whisky. "Does God have a sense of humour?" he mused over yet another late-night tumbler. "He must have done, or why would he create the Church of England?"

Not altogether surprisingly, his wife Elizabeth (Prunella Scales) has had enough and part one concluded with her departing in secret to rescue her daughter, who was bundled into the back of a van without a second look. Palmore's wife, however, packs her nightgown, tears before another bedtime, I predict.

Despite this all-consuming misery, I really did finish anxious for



Matthew Bond

more. Partly to discover exactly who is working for whom, partly to see how actors of the calibre of Donald Pleasance and James Earl Jones develop their, to date, barely walk-on roles and partly because of a sneaking suspicion — nay, hope — that such sympathetic actors as Prunella Scales and Michael Maloney can't really be playing characters of such irredeemable ghastliness. Can they?

Earlier, *Horizon* (BBC 2) had opened with one of the classic, almost clichéd, documentary shots — row after row of giant rusting hulks, quietly awaiting the scrap-metal hammer. Had these been old steam engines, the pictures would have provoked that familiar, warm glow of nostalgia. But these were old nuclear submarines. Any lump they bring to the throat is likely to be malignant.

The Cold War may be over, but its radioactive legacy lives on, was the message of Ed Harriman's fascinating film, *Russia's Dark Secrets*. The scale of the problem facing Russia's impoverished economy is awesome. Some 150 nuclear submarines, each with two nuclear reactors, await decommissioning. Last year, they made a start on two. There is the country's famous fleet of nuclear ice-breakers, most of which now do not so much quietly rusting as glowing in Murmansk harbour.

laden with spent nuclear fuel. But just as any sane person was shouting: "Something must be done", up popped *Crackles Hollister* of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, a man for whom, one suspects, the Cold War still rages. That's exactly what those aid-seeking Russians want us to think, said Hollister, who is of the belief that the safest place for nuclear material is exactly where the Russian have dumped it — at the bottom of the sea.

Tempting as it must have been to do otherwise, Harriman duly produced research from the ultra-cautious Norwegians that suggested Hollister was right. So, as long as you're not dangling a fishing hook over the torpedo tubes of the wrecked Komsomolsk, you're probably all right. Hmm... convinced? No, neither was I. Virginia Bottomley, however,

appears to have been by *Panorama*: *Bad Blood* (BBC 1), its first offering under its new editor, Steve Hewlett. Just five days before transmission, the Department of Health announced that it would, after all, be contacting the 3,000 people who may have been infected with the hepatitis C virus during blood transfusions.

The department's climbdown was understandable, for reporter Robin McAuley and her team appeared to have the Blood Transfusion Service dead in the water. A screening test for hepatitis C was developed in 1989. The BTS finally introduced the test, albeit in a more sophisticated form, in 1991, by which time infected blood had been given to patients at the rate of 1,500 bags a day. Unlike HIV, hepatitis C is not a new virus. The point is, for 18 months, its transmission through blood transfusion could have been avoided, but wasn't. Classic *Panorama*.

BBC1

6.00 *Business Breakfast* (2340)

7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (18461524)

7.30 *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (8729820)

10.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1807340) 10.05 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*. Weekly magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (88888814)

12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (176388) 12.05 *Pebble Mill* introduced by Gloria Hunniford (s) (3158253) 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (78548017)

1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (59104) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (91256748) 1.50 *Timekeepers*. Quiz game (s) (81295852)

2.15 *FILM: M's Tuesday. This Must Be Belgium* (1968) starring Suzanne Pleshette and Ian McShane. Comedy about a coachload of American tourists on an 18-day tour of seven European cities with a former London busker as their guide. Directed by Mel Stuart (308678)

3.50 *Jackanory*. Paul Merton with the second part of Morris Gleitsman's *Puppy Fair* (s) (8858235) 4.00 *The Adventures of Willy Fog*. (Ceefax) (1975963) 4.25 *Grimm's* (632524) 4.35 *Incredible Games*. (Ceefax) (s) (4401748)

5.00 *Newsround* (9324340) 5.10 *Grange Hill*. Comprehensive school drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (1459524)

5.35 *Neighbours* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (884104)

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (901)

6.30 *Regional news magazines* (253)

7.00 *Holiday*. Jill Dando goes on a canoeing expedition in France; Carol Smiley tries a Caribbean island hopping trip; John Pirtman leads an all-inclusive Spanish holiday for a family of four; and Sanika Gupta explores London by night. (Ceefax) (s) (1272)

Howard Anthony, Lindsey Coulson (7.30pm)

7.30 *EastEnders*. Carol Jackson (Lindsey Coulson) and her partner, Alan (Howard Anthony), are no longer able to keep a secret. (Ceefax) (s) (786)

8.00 *A Question of Sport*. David Coleman, Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are joined by Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Martin Brundle, Matthew Le Tissier and Roger Black. (Ceefax) (s) (9320)

8.30 *Al's Misbehavin'*. Musical comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (6727)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (2415)

9.30 *FILM: Far and Away* (1992) starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. A love story about a poor turn-of-the-century Irish immigrant farmer and a rich landowner's daughter who elope to America and hope to settle in lush Oklahoma. Directed by Ron Howard (Ceefax) (s) (70445185) *Wales: Football — Middlebrough v Swansea* 10.30 *Film: Far and Away* 12.45am-1.45 *Film: Spies, Lies and Naked Thighs* (1988) starring Harry Anderson. Comedy thriller about a CIA agent's attempts to stop an assassination attempt on the President. Directed by James Frawley (Ceefax) (s) (597336) 1.15am *Weather*

BBC2

7.00 *Dilly the Dinosaur* (s) (4336543) 7.05 *Bump* (s) (435814) 7.10 *Galaxy Good-Bye* (s) (8892369) 7.35 *Blue Peter* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1122369)

8.00 *BBC Breakfast News*. (Ceefax) and singing (8013543) 8.15 *The Record*. Rodney Foster reports on yesterday's business in Parliament (745833)

8.35 *Consuming Passions*. Pork and prune stir-fry (7453185) 8.40 *The Time of Your Life*. Canadian series about adventurous older people (4184949)

9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Educational programmes, including, for children, 10.00-10.25 *Playdays* (8611843) 1.40-1.45 *You Me* (8887765) 2.00 *Gordon T. Gopher* (41405185)

2.10 *Man on the Run: The Peopling of the Pacific*. Dr Alan Thorne on the Siberian hunters who crossed the Bering Strait land-bridge to Alaska and headed south (s) (5307494)

3.00 *News* and weather followed by *Westminster with Nick Ross*. (Ceefax) (7401415) 3.50 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (568271)

4.00 *Today's the Day*. Recent history quiz chaired by Marilyn Lewis (s) (494)

4.30 *Regional programmes* (s) (578). *Northern Ireland: The Big House*; *Wales: What a Cany On!*

5.00 *Children's Hospital* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (9878)

5.30 *Catchword*. Word game show presented by Paul Coia (630)

6.00 *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. American teen comedy (s) (824388)

6.25 *Heartbreak High*. Drama series set in an inner-city Australian high school. (Ceefax) (s) (277307)

7.10 *The Tick*. Animated adventures (47814)

Neil MacGregor at the National Gallery (7.30pm)

7.30 *Painting the World*. (Ceefax) (307)

8.00 *Public Eye: Hell on Wheels*. (Ceefax) (5562)

8.30 *Food and Drink*. Includes a good instant coffee guide. (Ceefax) (s) (4369)

9.00 *Joking Apart*. Episode three of a six-part comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (8307)

9.30 *Crusades*. Terry Jones with the second of his four-part history of the Crusades. (Ceefax) (804678)

10.20 *Jim Tavaré Pictures Presents...* Comedy series about a man with a double bass (s) (582291)

10.30 *Newsnight*. (Ceefax) (463398)

11.15 *The Late Show* presented by Tracey MacLeod (s) (306524) 11.55 *Weather* (611340)

12.00 *News followed by The Midnight Hour* (5129234). Ends at 12.55am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The numbers to each TV programme are the Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular programme. The numbers are listed in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to watch. For more information on the Video PlusCode, see the Video PlusCode guide in the Video PlusCode section of the TV Times. The Video PlusCode is a unique number which identifies each programme. It is used by the video recorder to find the programme you want to watch. The Video PlusCode is a unique number which identifies each programme. It is used by the video recorder to find the programme you want to watch.

CHOICE

Pat Hinton with her husband, Malcolm (ITV, 10.40pm)

Network First: Love, Lies and Bigamy (ITV, 10.40pm)

In what could be a television first, four convicted bigamists come before the cameras and tell all. The star is Pat Hinton, whose four bigamous marriages must constitute some record. She is now on her tenth husband and we can only hope he will fare better than the previous nine. She puts her serial bigamy down to a row with her mother over being illegitimate. Paul Crichton, a former ship's cook, is not quite in the *Hinton* class but still acquires wives, legitimately and otherwise, at a prolific rate. And he seems proud of it. The other bigamists demand at least a smidgen of sympathy, men lamented who fell suddenly and hopelessly in love with other women and got in so deep that they were unable to extricate themselves.

Painting the World (BBC2, 7.30pm)

In a series suited more to students of art than the casual viewer, Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery in London, discusses four paintings and the "worlds" they project. The emphasis is on content rather than form, cultural history rather than art for art's sake. MacGregor begins with the 15th century, when God and his saints were on hand to mitigate the horrors of war, plague and natural disaster. His featured work is a triptych of a Welsh knight and his family kneeling before the Virgin and child. MacGregor calls it a drama of human salvation. This is a quality project, well researched, polished, photography and top-notch casting. *Kavanagh QC* is another of those solid middlebrow dramas that come in profusion from the ITV network but somehow defeat the best efforts of the BBC.

Public Eye: Hell on Wheels (BBC2, 8.00pm)

Each day financial adviser Eddie Storey drives to work in Manchester, a 12-mile journey. By rights it should take him 20 minutes. Manchester, however, is the hub of the national congestion league and he is lucky to make it in under an hour. Much of the time he is stuck in traffic queues. The programme invites Storey to record his experiences on video and to try public transport instead. This takes even longer and costs him more than he spends on petrol. Storey's experience is the starting point for a report on the traffic crisis in a quality project, well researched, polished, photography and top-notch casting. *Kavanagh QC* is another of those solid middlebrow dramas that come in profusion from the ITV network but somehow defeat the best efforts of the BBC.

Kavanagh QC (ITV, 8.30pm)

Although John Thaw's accent still tends to lurch between Inspector Morse and Inspector Regan of the *Sweeney*, his latest series continues in winning form. True, the pace of life in Thaw's gruff northern barrister is less involving than his appearances in court. True, also, that the show tends to go for material likely to lift the ratings. In episode one it was rape. Tonight it is pornography, with Toyah Wilcox flagrantly overacting as a queen of the dirty video. But this is a quality project, well researched, polished, photography and top-notch casting. *Kavanagh QC* is another of those solid middlebrow dramas that come in profusion from the ITV network but somehow defeat the best efforts of the BBC.

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CARLTON

6.00am *GMTV* (3352123)

9.25 *Chain Letters*. Word game (4849959) 9.55 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (5531122)

10.00 *The Time...the Place* presented by John Saxon (s) (812104)

10.35 *This Morning*. Weekday family magazine (2252021) 12.20pm *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (715527)

12.30 *News* (Teletext) and weather (7515630)

12.55 *Emmerdale*. (Teletext) (7599049) 1.25 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (34995814)

1.55 *Vanessa*. Vanessa Feltz discusses the subject of cat herds (Teletext) (s) (2643758) 2.25 *A Country Practice* (s) (17934368) 2.50 *Blue Heelers* (6595949)

3.20 *ITN News*. (Teletext) (5477902) 3.25 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (5476291)

3.30 *The Magic House*. (s) (5429820) 3.40 *Tots TV* (s) (7453259) 3.50 *Twinkle the Dream Being* (s) (5458533) 4.00 *Budgie the Little Helicopter* (2251727) 4.15 *The Dreamstone* (Teletext) (s) (4385288) 4.40 *Chris Cross* (s) (Teletext) (s) (3605291)

5.10 *After 5* (Teletext) (6126366)

5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (634746)

5.55 *Your Show*. Members of the public air their views (557104)

6.00 *Home and Away* (s) (Teletext) (659)

6.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) (949)

7.00 *Emmerdale*. The lives and loves of the farming folk (Teletext) (6540)

7.30 *The Big Story*. Dermot Mulroney investigates Financial Management International, described as an independent advisory service (s) (633)

8.00 *The Bill*. Cressida. When a young woman is attacked, Woods tries to encourage her to reveal the name of her assailant. (Teletext) (2388)

Deisy Bates as daughter Kate (8.30pm)

8.30 *CHOICE: Kavanagh QC* (Teletext) (s) (35104)

10.00 *News at Ten* (Teletext) and weather (75253)

10.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) and weather (563307)

10.40 *CHOICE: Network First: Love, Lies and Bigamy*. (Teletext) (s) (112494)

11.40 *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (403543)

12.40am *FILM: Body of Evidence* (1988) starring Margo Kidder and Barry Bostwick. A nurse begins to suspect that her police pathologist husband may be the serial killer he is investigating. Directed by Roy Campanella II (196321)

2.20 *The Little Picture Show* with Manilla Frostip (907456)

3.15 *America's Top Ten* (s) (58234)

3.45 *Cinema, Cinema, Cinema* (s) (91220031)

4.10 *On the Live Side* featuring Les McCann and Dexter Gordon (s) (4091878)

4.30 *Videotashion* (11234)

5.00 *Vanessa* (s) (Teletext) (s) (79760)

5.30 *ITN Morning News* (43705). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.35 *Once Upon a Time... Life*. An animated exploitation of the human body (1808272)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (49727)

7.00 *You Bet Your Life*. Game show for couples introduced by Bill Cooper (s) (86830)

9.30 *Schools*. *Eureka!* 9.55 *50/50*. *50/50* 10.10 *Maths Everywhere* (9450104) 10.25 *How We Used to Live* (9449611) 10.45 *Coming Together* (7599543) 11.00 *Science in Focus* (6360475) 11.22 *Stage One* (2225663) 11.38 *Schools at Work* (8893630) 11.45 *First Edition* (9277833)

12.00 *House To House*. Political magazine presented by Maya Evans (66974)

12.30 *Sesame Street*. Entertaining pre-school learning series. The guest is John Goodman (177272) 1.30 *Widgit* (s) (89264733) 1.55 *Blind Man's Bluff*. Animation. (6561549)

2.05 *FILM: Canadian Pacific* (1949) starring Randolph Scott and Victor Jory. Western drama about a surveyor working on the Canadian Pacific Railway, doing battle with a fur trader and his gang who are determined to halt its construction. Directed by Edward L. Mann (474441)

4.00 *Home Movies*. The third of a five-part series showing how people living in the West Country during the 1920s used their leisure time (562)

4.30 *Countdown*. (Teletext) (s) (1746)

5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. A discussion on the dangers of passive smoking in the family (Teletext) (s) (6047727)

5.50 *Teletoons*. Classic cartoons (447727)

6.00 *East 17 — Letting Off Steam*. The pop group recorded in May last year at the Brighton Centre (s) (20291)

7.00 *Channel 4 News* (Teletext) and weather (495036)

7.50 *The Slot*. Viewer access series (448104)

Eric Andrews drove a steam truck (8.00pm)

8.00 *Classic Trucks: Sparks Fly*. The second of a six-part series examines the history of the British truck, narrated by John Peel. (Teletext) (s) (2830)

8.30 *Brookside*. (Teletext) (s) (2785)

9.00 *Unlabeled: The Peacekeepers*. The last in the series critical of the peacekeeping operation examines its role in Africa. (Teletext) (s) (5901)

10.00 *FILM: Bed of Lies* (1991) starring Susan Dey and Chris Cooper. A marriage-of-convenience drama about a perfect marriage that goes terribly wrong. Directed by William A. Graham (s) (889036)

11.45 *Bakersfield PD*. American police comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (732487)

12.15am *Football Italia — Mezzanotte*. Highlights of the game between Bari and Lazio (175554) 12.30 *1.15 Blood, Sweat and Tears*. The history of sport series continues with a look at the heroes of the 1996 Olympic Games (s) (1558079)

1.50 *FILM: The Camels Are Coming* (1934) s/w starring Jack Hulbert. Vintage British comedy about a squadron leader on the trail of dog battalions in Egypt. Directed by Tim Whelan (2735031). Ends at 3.10

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 *Anglia News* (5261122) 12.30pm-12.35 *Anglia News* (715272) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (9123001) 2.50-3.20 *Brookside* (885949) 3.25-3.50 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.00-5.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.30-5.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.45-6.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.00-6.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.15-6.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.30-6.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.45-7.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.00-7.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.15-7.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.00-3.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.15-3.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.30-3.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.45-4.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.00-4.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.15-4.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.30-4.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.45-5.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.00-5.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.15-5.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.30-5.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.45-6.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.00-6.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.15-6.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.30-6.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.45-7.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.00-7.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.15-7.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.00-3.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.15-3.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.30-3.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.45-4.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.00-4.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.15-4.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.30-4.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 4.45-5.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.00-5.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.15-5.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.30-5.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 5.45-6.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.00-6.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.15-6.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.30-6.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 6.45-7.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.00-7.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.15-7.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.30-7.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 7.45-8.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.00-8.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.15-8.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.30-8.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 8.45-9.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.00-9.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.15-9.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.30-9.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 9.45-10.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.00-10.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.15-10.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.30-10.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 10.45-11.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.00-11.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.15-11.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.30-11.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 11.45-12.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.00-12.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.15-12.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.30-12.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 12.45-1.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.00-1.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.15-1.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.30-1.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 1.45-2.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.00-2.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.15-2.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.30-2.45 *Anglia News* (576291) 2.45-3.00 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.00-3.15 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.15-3.30 *Anglia News* (576291) 3.30-3.45 *Ang*

Hughes's injury less serious than feared

By Peter Ball

FEARS that Mark Hughes's football career may have been threatened by the knee injury that he sustained while scoring Newcastle United's goal against Newcastle United at St James' Park on Sunday have, happily, proved premature. An examination yesterday revealed that he had not suffered ligament damage, although the wound went through to the bone.

"Compared with first reports, the news is great," Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, said. "There is nothing seriously wrong with the knee other than the cut, which doesn't threaten his future."

Hughes underwent an operation on Sunday night to clean the wound — suffered in a collision with Pavel

Snick, the Newcastle goalkeeper — and was kept in hospital yesterday because he was still running a temperature. He will return to Manchester by ambulance today.

Hughes is expected to be out of action for four weeks. Ferguson hopes that Roy Keane, who strained a hamstring against Newcastle, and Paul Ince will be fit to play against Blackburn Rovers, the leaders of the FA Cup Premiership, on Sunday, in what should be a formidable first game for Andy Cole, his new £7 million forward.

"I think the way we play will suit Andy," Ferguson said. "We've found now that, even at home against us, teams just sit on the edge of their box and defend. They might be a bit wary about doing that with him around. We haven't had that speed

in the box. We haven't had pace through the middle. But now sides will have to wonder a bit what's happening in the areas between the centre backs."

Cole's presence will, however, require some adjustments to United's approach if he is to be successful. While Hughes was a focal point during the build-up, receiving the ball, holding it and bringing others into play, Cole operates by speed and stealth, relying on others to find him when he gets free in the penalty box, his area of operation.

If Ferguson has Hughes's replacement to hand, the Welshman's injury has presented Joe Royle, the Everton manager, with something of a dilemma. Everton had hoped to conclude negotiations with United yesterday to take Hughes to Goodison Park for an estimated fee of £2 million. Royle now has to decide whether to wait for Hughes, or to make another bid for Dean Saunders, the Aston Villa forward.

The decision was not helped by the sending-off of Duncan Ferguson against Arsenal at Highbury on Saturday. "I was disappointed with what happened, but I've seen much worse," Royle said. "There is no suggestion of him having hit John Jensen, he pushed and pulled him over. It was petulant, not violent. It would have been nice if the referee had pulled the two aside and given them 100 lines each. It's only the second time in his career that he's been sent off. I've no doubts about his temperament — just his maturity."

Ferguson now faces a three-game suspension, but Royle insisted that that would not sway his decision on Hughes. "We aren't bereft of forwards," he said. "Stuart Barlow is doing very well in the reserves and Brett Angell will be fit soon. I won't be rushed. I only want to sign top players."

While Royle ponders, Roy Evans, his opposite number at Liverpool, will sign a new contract this week. Liverpool responded to the team's success this season by giving him a two-year extension to his present contract, which still has 18 months to run. It will put him on a par with other leading managers, lifting his salary into the £200,000-a-year range.

"The board are delighted with the job he's been doing, and the atmosphere he's created in the dressing-room," Peter Robinson, the chief executive at Anfield, said yesterday. Evans, though, had no illusions that his new contract meant he could relax in his efforts to return Liverpool to the top. "I'm pleased to know that they think I'm doing a good job," he said, "but I still have much work to do."

If Mark Hughes still has a few years to go, one of his most distinguished former colleagues retired from Premiership football yesterday. Gordon Strachan, 37, the mid-field player who won 50 caps for Scotland but who has been struggling with a back injury this season, finally conceded that his first-team days were over. He will stay with Leeds United as coach, playing the occasional reserve match, and as a manager in waiting.

Leading article, page 17
Milan back to best, page 40



Strachan: forced to retire

Emerging players claim the spotlight

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

THE start of the Australian Open was illuminated yesterday by two faces of the past and two of the future. As Pat Cash and Mats Wilander wandered further into the twilight of their careers, Martina Hingis and Mark Philippoussis strode into the dawn of theirs.

The name of Philippoussis may be the least familiar of the quartet, but, in threatening to cause a startling upset during the night session here at Flinders Park, he suggested that it may soon be well-known far beyond the boundaries of the host city.

Melbourne has a player for the future. Nobody, not even Jim Courier, strikes the ball with more thunderous power and with greater murderous intent.

An unusually quiet opening day was drawing to a close when the unheralded local stepped on to the centre court with Stefan Edberg, twice the champion and three times the runner-up. By the time they left, 2½ hours later, the floodlights were shining on the precocious Philippoussis.

Philippoussis, 18, received a vociferous ovation, founded on relief as much as admiration. Mark Edmondson, the last Australian to win the

championship (in 1976), had forecast that no domestic representative would regain the trophy until at least the next century.

As if to emphasise his gloomy prediction, Australians fell at a rate of one an hour throughout the day. The dozen victims included Jason Stoltenberg, their highest-ranked contender in the men's singles, who went out in straight sets, albeit complaining of an injured arm.

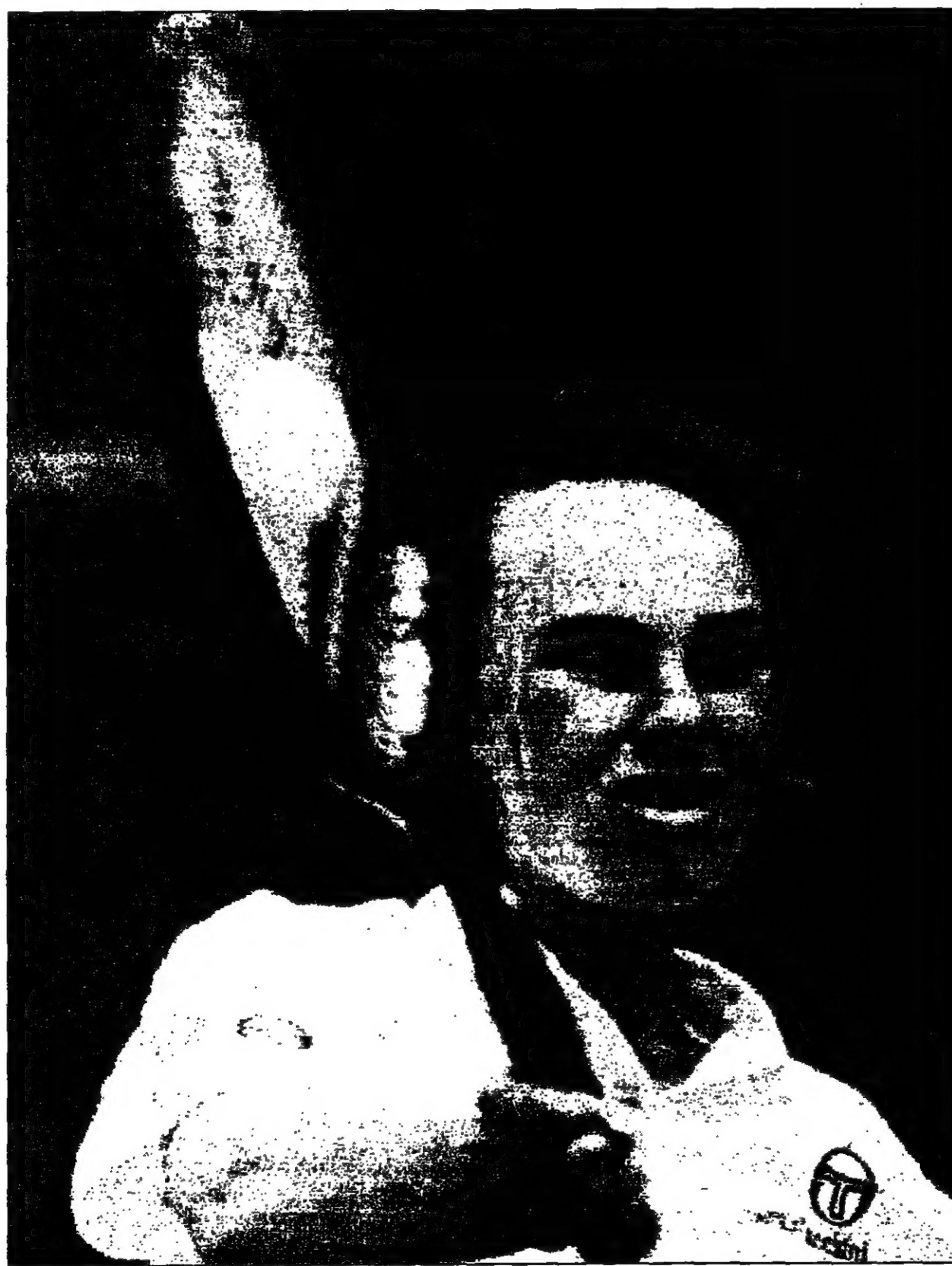
Even in defeat, Philippoussis helped to redress the balance by shaking the main arena and Edberg's defences with his ferocious blows. "It is hard to imagine him not being among the top players in the world in a couple of years," John Alexander, the former Australia No 1, said.

Had Philippoussis not temporarily withdrawn his array of attacking weapons, yielding five successive games to drop the second set, he might have battered the sixth seed into submission.

The Swede, no longer coached by Tony Pickard, was helped by a touch of fortune in the third-set tie-break. A net cord lifted him to a 4-1 lead and, although Philippoussis later saved a match point with his tenth ace, he went through 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, 7-5.

Considering the gap in experience, the narrowness of the margin reflected the promise of the teenager, who belted 27 winners. He was appearing in his second grand slam event. Edberg, who started the year by triumphing in Qatar, is competing in his 47th.

Hingis was making her debut in the championships and made light of it. A slip of a girl with a core of steel, she began by allowing Jelene Watanabe, 26, from the United States, to collect only four points on her own service in an opening set which was over in 18 minutes. Hingis, 14, was



Hingis, making her debut in the Australian Open, powers a forehand drive during her defeat of Watanabe

then detained by her unforced errors before becoming the youngest to win a women's singles match in the event in the open era, 6-0, 7-6. "I wasn't nervous," she pronounced, "because she is behind me in the rankings." Watanabe, at nineteenth, is 17 places lower.

With Venus Williams, also 14, the last of the children to be allowed to join the Women's

Tennis Association tour, she has poised far beyond her years and is bound to profit from the alarmingly shallow depths of the women's game. Of the seven seeds in action yesterday, not one dropped a set.

Women's tennis is in real trouble," Cash, who followed Hingis on to the packed No 1 court, said. So is his own career. Cursed by serious inju-

ries to his knee, Achilles heel and back, he contracted a virus last week and would have withdrawn had it been any other event.

After taking the first set off Alex O'Brien, Cash — the runner-up in 1987 and 1988 — subsided 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, but not before he had changed into a shirt designed after his favourite hero, Spiderman.

The decorative cobwebs suitably signalled his lack of match practice.

Unlike Cash, Wilander does not have to depend on wild cards, but he, too, confessed that he is rusty. Three times the champion, he was eliminated in straight sets by Jacco Elzingh.

Results, page 40

England A build strong position

By Our Sports Staff

INCISIVE bowling with the new ball by Glen Chapple and Dominic Cork put England A in command of the first international cricket match against India A in Bangalore yesterday. At the close of the third day, India A were 83 for seven in their second innings, with a lead of only 94.

With Paul Weekes and Richard Stamp, the spinners, also taking a wicket apiece in the closing 15 minutes, England A should be confident of forcing victory today on a pitch that is deteriorating rapidly.

Earlier, a brilliant innings of 99 by Mark Ramprakash, together with some stout tail-end resistance from Chapple, had enabled England A to reach 289 in their first innings after a middle-order collapse.

Ramprakash and Alan Wells went immediately on the attack, only for Sairaj Bahadure, the leg spinner, to take three wickets in ten balls as England A slipped from 191 for three to 233 for seven. Ramprakash, however, held firm, putting on hold the sparkling strokeplay of the first half-hour, and, with Chapple's help, rebuilt the innings.

Ramprakash deserved a hundred, but clever bowling from Rajesh Chauhan, the India Test off spinner, denied him. Chauhan went round the wicket for the last ball of an over, and the change in angle was enough to induce a nick to the wicketkeeper. Ramprakash had faced 202 balls, hitting two sixes and nine fours in a display that should

attract the attention of the senior England selectors.

Chapple hit a couple of boundaries before being last out for 26, but the Lancashire fast bowler still had his most important contribution to make. Charging in on an unusually cool afternoon, he took three for 21 in 11 overs interrupted only by tea. Despite a slight thigh strain, Cork was only marginally less impressive. He took two for 31 in his 11 overs.

The England A bowlers were supported by superb fielding. Ramprakash took a smart, head-high catch at cover to remove Jatinder Singh, the opener, before tea.

Bangalore scoreboard ... 40
Threat of Waugh twins ... 42

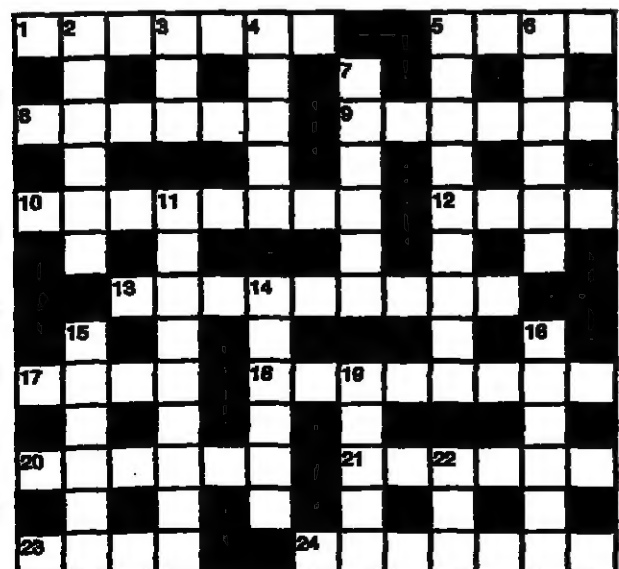
and Cork's effort at gully to dismiss Praveen Amre, the Test batsman, was also outstanding.

The most spectacular efforts, though, came from Ian Salisbury — a magnificent low catch to his left at first slip to dismiss Bahadure, and a brave dive forward at deep mid-wicket, while facing a low sun, to remove Vajay Yadav from the second ball bowled by Weekes.

"It was a great effort but we still have work to do because I don't think we want to leave ourselves with more than 150 for victory if the conditions get worse," Ramprakash, the vice-captain, said.



Edberg: difficult victory



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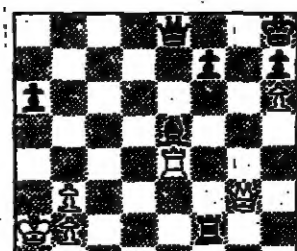
TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 371

- | | |
|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Building (7) | 2 Senseless talk (6) |
| 5 Tiny contribution; arachnid (4) | 3 Admirer; cooler (3) |
| 9 Little seal on ring (6) | 4 Interrupt; allow (someone) a share (3,2) |
| 9 Sheen (6) | 5 Deal with incorrectly (9) |
| 10 I believe (loc) (8) | 6 Mark aimed at (6) |
| 12 Cutters: coordinate reference lines (4) | 7 Small cupboard; private room (6) |
| 13 Thankfulness (9) | 11 Dickens' Coketown novel (4,5) |
| 17 Herb; untouched (condition) (4) | 14 Crowd commotion (6) |
| 18 Hypnotic (8) | 15 Stop accepting responsibility (for) (8) |
| 20 The Desert Fox (6) | 16 Successful competitor (6) |
| 21 Annoy; commit crime (6) | 19 Put by; shop (5) |
| 23 Burden (4) | 22 Jollity (3) |
| 24 St — Clairvaux abbot, pags. dog (7) | |

SOLUTION TO NO 370
ACROSS: 1 Change hands 7 Upset 8 Juvenal 10 Denounce 11 Punt 13 Guffaw 15 Coodle 17 Awry 18 Struck up 21 Estuary 22 Trice 23 Ramoness
DOWN: 1 Coup de grace 2 Arson 3 Guttural 4 Hijack 5 Navy 6 Sensual 9 Letterpress 12 Coquette 14 Forster 16 Stayer 19 Knife 20 Warm

This position is from the game Nurni - Murshed, London 1985.
1 Rxe5 is a very strong move for White and, in fact, delivers mate in four moves. However, White actually has a way to mate even more quickly. Can you see it?
Solution, page 42
Raymond Keene, page 8



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| By Philip Howard | By Raymond Keene |
| BARD PARTS | SNUG |
| a. The God of War | a. A tinker |
| b. A banished lord | b. A tailor |
| c. An unlucky suitor | c. A joiner |
| GRUMIO | BRABANTIO |
| a. A battered servant | a. A merchant |
| b. A pantolon dotard | b. A reverend signior |
| c. A brave soldier | c. A fortunate lover |

Answers on page 42

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